

Hafa Adai!

PSS files injunction against CNMI govt. **PAGE 4**

Rota Finance resident director pleads guilty to misconduct. **PAGE 14**

Saipan Tribune

NEWSPAPER

75¢

Two dead in hostage tragedy

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 38-hours-long hostage drama in San Antonio ended in a hail of bullets early yesterday morning that killed both the hostage-taker and hostage after law enforcement stormed the home where he was barricaded.

Photo shows the family home of Gordon Aldan Castro following a 38-hours-long hostage incident.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

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on **Page 4**

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HANMI occupancy lowest in recorded history

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is reporting less than 20% unweighted average occupancy rate among 11 member-hotels as of last week, the lowest ever rate in March since the organization started tracking occupancy in 1992.

The extremely low average is a result of the impact of the

COVID-19 outbreak on travel to the Marianas. However, HANMI officials are optimistic that this Saturday's Saipan Marathon 2020 is an indication that visitors are still willing to travel to the Marianas, with proper public health precautions.

"The visitor industry is bleeding right now, and the

whole community can feel it," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

"Some of our members are not coming or going, that means CPA is not making any money. CPA board chair Kim-

See **HANMI** on **Page 4**

From \$3.9M, CPA now projects loss at \$6.4M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's estimated revenue loss due to the coronavirus outbreak was

initially projected at \$3.9 million but that amount has now climbed to nearly double, at \$6.5 million. That prompted the CPA board yesterday to

See **CPA** on **Page 4**

» **From 72 hours, CPA now implementing 64 work-hours**

UNITED SUSPENDS AFTERNOON FLIGHTS STARTING MARCH 30

'These are times like we've never seen or experienced'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Nearly half of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's \$15-million consolidated operational budget is funded by aviation rev-

enue, so when airplanes are not landing and tourists are not coming or going, that means CPA is not making any money. CPA board chair Kim-

See **UNITED** on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

■ **MVA board OKs 16 work-hour cut. PAGE 5**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bali Fashion, which primarily sells ready-to-wear clothing on Saipan, is having a sale.

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ASIA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte would be tested for the new coronavirus.

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LIFE & STYLE

Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, have tested positive for the coronavirus.

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Torres: The ultimate goal is to 'maximize' federal programs

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With austerity measures hitting the ground on March 15, federally funded employees remain in limbo as to whether they will be affected, especially come Friday next week.

In an interview, Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres said that the administration is currently getting all the numbers down, into the number of federal local employees in federal programs.

"We don't have the exact number as we're still getting more approval and update from the federal grantors, but

every department has written letters to the grantors asking to transfer, if not 100% of the individuals, or a certain percent of how much work they put into, for the specific programs."

The governor said that what they want is for all federally

See GOAL on Page 4

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Democrats in the Northern Marianas will caucus on March 14, 2020 to select delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 13-16, 2020, which will nominate the Democratic Party candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America

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The caucus will be held on Saipan at the World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses at

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Attao bill seeks to cut salaries of elected, appointed officials

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

In a move intended for the CNMI government to save some cash, a bill that would cut the salaries of elected and appointed officials to where they were 29 years ago will be introduced in the House of Representatives session today on Capital Hill.

House Bill 21-109, HD1, authored by House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan), would amend Public Law 21-8, and push for the salary adjustments of those with higher salaries to revert back to the compensation schedule in Public Law 7-31.

Essentially, the bill takes all these elected and appointed officials' current salaries and drop it to the salaries set when P.L. 7-31 was enacted, which was in 1991.

"The amendment to the current budget will cut salaries for certain elected and appointed position—those that are making substantially more than the rest. We expressly exempted everyone making minimum wage," Attao said.

While lawmakers cannot stop the administration from cutting work hours of government workers, they can, instead, propose to reverse their salary increases, he added.

"We can't control external factors that adversely affect our economy, but we can take control over internal matters. Raising salaries was one thing when we had the funds, but now that the CNMI really needs the money, reducing hours alone doesn't address the inequity caused by the raises," Attao said.

"You can't save money by raising salaries substantially and reducing hours minimally," he added.

The salary adjustment will be in addition to the cost-cutting measures that the Commonwealth is undertaking, particularly the austerity that will take effect beginning

March 15.

While the CNMI economy has been impacted by extreme weather conditions in the past, it is seeing its worst at present. The fall in tourism due to the global novel coronavirus scare is severely damaging the global economy, but most especially the local economy.

"We came together, as a bipartisan body, to find solutions. It may not be ideal, but the salary cuts do not apply to civil service employees, teachers, teacher aides, instructors, counselors, bus drivers, and school support staff. It protects them expressly," Rep Marco Peter (R-Saipan) separately said.

The bill exempts the above, as well as all employees currently making minimum wage salaries.

It also suspends the Public School System employee compensation set in Article 7 § 1182 of Public Law 20-48 for the remainder of fiscal year 2020, provided that the PSS employees, except for those mentioned by Peter, revert to salaries they were receiving prior to the adjustments authorized under P.L. 20-48.

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) said that cutting higher salaries may result in a savings that can then be utilized by the CNMI government and PSS to mitigate the economic harms caused by the lack of revenue.

"We can't control the cuts that the administration is making now, but this bill will help prevent further cuts down the road by freeing up some money. Reducing salaries will benefit general revenues available to PSS," vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) added.

Aside from the salary cuts for elected and appointed officials, the bill also proposes that federally funded positions will not be reduced in fiscal year 2020; that federally funded travels are allowed; and that all travels outside of

the CNMI, except for medical referrals and those that will directly benefit the Commonwealth, are to be suspended.

All purchases, including capital items using revenues from the general fund, are also to be suspended.

The bill also states that no new hires will be allowed, and that no salary increases are to be entertained for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said that although a significant number of elected officials are constitutionally protected, they can always volunteer to make personal tough decisions to cut their own salaries—to share the burden and not to avoid it.

"We took this approach, as opposed to revising the CNMI budget because this process would have a more immediate effect," Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) said. "By the time we go through the process of revising the budget, getting revised projections, doing the concurrent resolutions, passing the House version and then the Senate version, meeting at a conference committee, it will be at least June. And by then, we will be working on the 2021 budget."



Attao



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PSS files injunction against CNMI govt

The Public School System has filed an injunction that would guarantee the Public School System an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue.

During a Board of Education special board meeting last Wednesday at Marianas High School, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada signed the injunction before the board and PSS

personnel. The document was filed yesterday at the CNMI Superior Court.

Three BOE members—Phillip Mendiola-Long, Marylou Ada, and Andrew Orsini—directed Ada to file the injunction immediately against the CNMI government. The lawsuit argues that the CNMI government gave PSS inaccurate allotments in fiscal year 2020, in violation of the

CNMI constitution. BOE chair Janice Tenorio and vice chair Herman Atalig opposed the filing of the injunction.

Ada reiterated at the board meeting that, although he initially did not support filing the injunction considering the current economic state, he has since changed his mind because he wants what's best for PSS.

"You [teachers] add value to the system. This is not you versus us, we have to unite and stand together.

HANMI

From Page 1

bers have cut work-hours by almost 50%, and government austerity may become even more drastic. The best thing we can do to keep ourselves and our community safe is to take the public health advice: stay home if we are sick, avoid physical proximity with those who are sick, wash our hands thoroughly and frequently, and avoid touching our eyes, nose, and mouth. This is a very practical way everyone can help our tour-

ism economy, by limiting the spread of germs."

A survey of HANMI members shows some hotels are in the planning stage of laying off employees, close entire wings, close restaurants and suspend contracts for outsourced services.

Preliminary projected occupancy rates made last week for April are around 20% in light of additional flight cancellations from Korea, adding to a complete suspension of flights from China since Feb. 1, 2020. Cavanagh cautioned that that percentage may still decrease, as hotels continue to receive room cancellations.

Hotels included in HANMI's report are Aqua Resort Club, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fi-esta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. **(PR)**

CPA

From Page 1

approve a plan to implement another cut in the work-hours of all employees.

Effective March 29, all CPA employees will have a 64-hour work schedule. Last Feb. 14, the board approved a 72-hour work schedule for all employees, reducing by eight hours the work-hours of employees per pay period. This time, the cut is 16 hours from the regular 80 hours per pay period.

CPA now estimates the total revenue loss at \$6,478,735 if all flights suspensions are extended to the end of the fiscal year. More airlines have suspended flights to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, lowering CPA's projected total revenues by an amount significantly greater than originally projected.

At the CPA board meeting yesterday at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Air-

port, board director Pete P. Reyes described cutting the work-hours of employees as "the most painful part" about being a board member.

Board director Barrie C. Toves urged the CPA management to look into possibility of tapping its reserve account but CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said that doing so will cause CPA to default on its loans.

In a later interview, board chair Kimberlyn-King Hinds said that, when they made the initial cuts last Feb. 14, they knew that it was inevitable they were going to have to go back to the table, given the anticipated reduction in flights.

King-Hinds said they voted to implement more austerity measures to ensure that they are able to maintain their operating expenses but, far more importantly, to be able to pay employees at the bare minimum of 64 hours biweekly.

"We are also cutting other operational expenses," said King-Hinds. Even with that, they're still short \$200,000, she added.

King-Hinds said they have taken a very conservative approach in coming up with the estimated amount of losses and are anticipating a worst-case scenario. "And that is basically for the month of April and the rest of the fiscal year. We anticipate zero international flights," she said.

In terms of revenue, King-Hinds said they're basically relying on the United Airlines' Guam-Saipan route, given the proliferation of the coronavirus in South Korea and Italy, and the uncertainty of what's going to happen with Japan and how that's going to impact the traveling public.

Despite efforts to sell the CNMI as a coronavirus-free destination, "people are just not wanting to travel these days," she added.

Other measures that are being taken is that CPA has halted all projects and contracts, and terminated contract services with the parking, among other contracts.

"We're just looking at every single avenue to be able to reduce costs," she said.

I plead to all of you for patience and understanding. Let's weather this storm together, tough times don't last

forever, we will continue to focus on our purpose and our focus is to educate," he said. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

UNITED

From Page 1

berlyn King-Hinds underscored this point Wednesday after confirming that United Airlines has officially notified CPA about suspending its flights on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays beginning March 30 through April 30.

She said CPA appreciates the advance notice and their continued strong partnership with United Airlines. "We pledge to continue to find ways and work collaboratively with all of our industry partners to endure these unprecedented challenging times," King-Hinds said.

It must be noted, though, that, given the continued proliferation of COVID-19 globally and the extraordinary measures that countries are implementing to contain the outbreak—with citizens in the millions now being quarantined—people should expect that the CNMI's travel and tourism industry will be hit the hardest, she said.

GOAL

From Page 2

funded employees to be exempt from austerity, and that that is what they are trying to find a solution.

"The ultimate goal is to maximize federal program, even as much as salaries, and then working hundred percent. That's the ultimate goal. So we have until next week to work that out," he said.

Torres said the administration is working on fusing federally funded employees from departments and agencies into a 100% federally funded agency.

The governor cited, as examples, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

"COTA is 100% federally funded. The office is rented by federal funds, the utilities paid by federal program, and all the staff. Now, we have for

example, DLNR, there's brown tree snakes, there's only two or three staff, and the sea turtle program [under federal funding]."

According to Torres, the entire office does not have to be opened for just two or three individuals, but instead, they could clock in at a 100% federally funded offices.

"What we're trying to do is how do we manage taking those individuals and go clock in and have a different workload, or same workload, but report differently, so that we can have that staff also report into a 100% federally funded program."

In early February, the administration announced the implementation of temporary austerity measures, cutting employee work hours from the regular 80 hours to 64. This is due to the unanticipated severe impact to the CNMI economy of the travel suspensions and restrictions following the novel coronavirus outbreak.

HOSTAGE

From Page 1

According to a Department of Public Safety statement, local and federal law enforcement agencies barged into the family residence of Gordon Aldan Castro in San Antonio between 2:30am and 3am yesterday, killing him. The hostage, Kisha King, who was Castro's girlfriend, was also killed.

Castro allegedly fired several rounds at the police officers, causing them to return fire and enabling them to "neutralize the threat." It is presumed that the statement means that that was when Castro was killed.

The statement added: "The suspect is confirmed to be deceased at this time. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the situation, the female is also confirmed to be deceased." It was not immediately learned how King was killed.

An "all-clear" for the village of San Antonio was announced at ap-

proximately 4:30pm yesterday.

Following the incident, Attorney General Edward Manibusan tasked the Attorney General Investigative Division and Chief Prosecutor John Bradley to make an independent review of the circumstances surrounding the use of deadly force during the hostage situation.

"I have conferred with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero and he has given his full support for an independent investigation. The review is a standard protocol for the use of deadly force by law enforcement," said Manibusan.

"I seek the cooperation of law enforcement partners, including the FBI and DPS, as we undertake this important and sensitive inquiry. I wish to extend my condolences to the family of the deceased and ask for the community's patience as our office conducts the independent review," Manibusan added.

Family disappointed

Castro's older sister and the main negotiator, Stephanie Castro Camacho, said she is disappointed with the way DPS and federal agencies handled her brother's situation, but she understands that they were just doing their job. However, she believes there's more information that DPS hasn't disclosed to their family.

"They told me to negotiate with my brother and, in that negotiation, I was supposed to go over there because me and Gordon were in communication on the phone. I told him, 'OK, I'm going to go over there so you can surrender.' [But after that negotiation], the FBI and DPS didn't allow me [to go] for my safety and I understand. But, I know my brother very well, I know he wouldn't harm me. If they only gave me that chance, he would be living today," she said.

Camacho added that their family was not made aware that law enforcers had "breached" the house when it happened and were only notified after.

"The last time I spoke to my broth-

er was at 11:55pm yesterday and I was never told they were entering. I was told to call my brother before the SWAT team goes to my mom's house so I did. They told me to keep trying but there was no answer, so I kept trying," she said.

As for King, Camacho said that Castro did not harm her and had no intent to harm her and she made that clear during their conversations.

"I don't think [Kisha] really was a hostage because we were talking and Kisha told the FBI that she's not a victim and she's not harmed. We were all communicating," she said.

'He wasn't in his right mind'

Although Camacho and her family do not condone Castro's actions, she wants the community to know that her brother was not a bad person, he was sick and scared and, at the end, was not in his right mind.

"My brother was scared. He wasn't in the right mind, with all those police surrounding him. Like everyone

else, I'd be scared too. I don't call his sickness a medical condition. I'm not going to consider him mental. It's a sickness. ...He thinks like everyone else but, like everyone else, he has bad days. I want people to help anyone else who has the same condition as my brother so this kind of incident doesn't happen again," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed condolences to the families involved, that law enforcement tried their best to resolve the situation.

"When things like this happen, our community needs to step back, and reflect on the situation and also stay away from the situation. Unfortunately, when it was happening, we had other spectators that were around the vicinity, and that kind of prevented some actions. ... So as we go through this process, my biggest concern... is to have the community be aware, be alert. And when things like this happen again, stay away from events like this and seek safety," he said.

MVA board approves 64 work-hours

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the suspension of several flights to the CNMI because of the COVID-19 outbreak and the drastic drop in the number of tourists, the Marianas Visitors Association board ordered yesterday a 16-hour cut in the work-hours of its employees, effective immediately.

The reduction of hours—from 80 hours to 64 hours—will begin on April 12.

MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo initially asked the board for permission to close the MVA office every Friday but this was denied. Instead, MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh proposed to have a designated day off for each staff.

"We never know when things happen and, to be able to serve our travel partners, we need to make sure that our office is open," said Cavanagh.

Cavanagh stated that it would be better if one employee has an alternative day off on Monday, someone else on Wednesday, and so on, for the time being until the CNMI economy regains its footing. This means that each MVA staff will have a total of three days off, as approved by the board.

MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce suggested that a minimum of two people should stay at the MVA on Fridays for safety reasons.

Cavanagh said she understands why Friday would be

a good day to set a day off as it would give employees an opportunity to seek part-time employment somewhere else, but she believes it's important for MVA that its doors stay open five days a week.

In a later interview with Aldan-Pierce, she said that, on the positive side, they're grateful that Skymark Airlines Inc. from Japan is continuing to fly to the CNMI, as well as other flights that haven't been cancelled. "The positive side is that people are still coming to Saipan and are having a pleasant experience," she added.

MVA board member Jerry Tan said that the biggest problem with the COVID-19 outbreak is that there is no timeline as to when this will be over, but he believes that this is just a temporary situation.

Tan has confidence that both the federal and local governments, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are on top of the situation.

"I think that the community should remain calm, and support each other during these trying times," he said.

One of the affected employees, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said she is stressed because, in addition to the rent and regular bills to pay, she has a son who is in a private school. "It's very hard because we have a budget to follow every week, so it'll be very hard and it's sad too," she said.



Iakopo

Aldan-Pierce, who is president of Duty Free Saipan Ltd., also clarified that T Galleria has changed their store hours and have done some closure within the store but has not touched any of the employees' hours yet, "so there's still hope."

DFS employees have been given the opportunity to take a leave without pay, so that employees could take advantage of a time like this and spend time with their loved ones. (With Krizel Tuazon)

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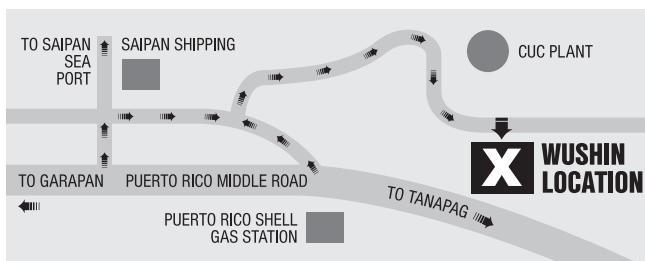
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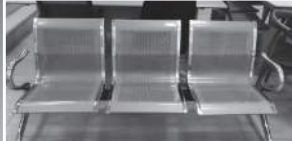
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Proposed resolution opposes use of NMI as a bombing range

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A House joint resolution is set to be introduced today in a session of the House of Representatives on Capital Hill, requesting Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to oppose any increase military presence or training in the CNMI.

Pre-filed by Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), the resolution also lobbies to oppose all proposed military use of the Northern Islands.

Babauta said the resolution intends to make clear the legislators' stance on further military trainings in the CNMI.

"This resolution is really just the first step to the overall goal to protect our CNMI and really support sustainability of our people. Sustainability of our environment means sustainability of our people. This one is encouraging the governor to oppose any increase in military presence or training," she said.

Babauta particularly referred to documents that specified the sizes of bombs, the types of trainings, and the supposed environmental impacts of such military exercises in the CNMI.

"How is it going to impact us? We are saying that we have already made agreements with the U.S., we have Farallon de Medinilla, an entire island that they are using. They have a huge portion of Tinian and to give them anymore would be detrimental to our environment," she added.

Protecting the Commonwealth

Last month, activist and cultural advocate Pete Perez spoke to the members of the House on behalf of Our Common Wealth, a new organization formed to oppose the further militarization in the CNMI. Perez is a co-founder of Paganwatch, which advocates for indigenous rights.

Paganwatch, along with the Tinian Women Association, Guardians of Gani and the Center for Biological Diversity, filed a lawsuit against the Navy and the Department of Defense to stop the military's plans to use not just Tinian, but the whole of Pagan, for high-level live-fire training. The case was heard in the District Court for the District of CNMI; the U.S. government won that case.

The group appealed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Honolulu, and the case was heard in early February.

"Our goal in this is to stop the use of our islands for bombing ranges," Perez said. "As our late governor [Eloy S.] Inos said, the Navy's plan to create bombing ranges in the Mariana Islands poses an existential threat to our community."

A safe haven in CNMI

At the same House session, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (Rep-Saipan) said that, instead of turning the islands into bombing ranges, the U.S. should look into the CNMI as a safe haven for when calamity strikes.

"They should be looking at us and say, we should create an ecosystem environment here so in case there's major destruction in the U.S., and calamity with all these new viruses, this is a safe haven," he said.

The legislator further stated that the military should think outside the box, and not destroy something that they can sustain. "What I don't understand is the United States is a big country, they have open water. Why don't they go do their practice over there? We're a small...chain of islands."

"They're not thinking about survival. Destruction is only their forte here right now. I don't believe that they're here to protect us. They are here to destroy us," Guerrero lamented.

Irreversible damage

According to Perez, the U.S. Marines plan to use the entire island of Pagan

as a live fire bombing range to provide training for the planned move of 4,800 Marines to Guam.

Unlike military bases, though, bombing ranges will not bring an economic boon, Perez said. Rather, they will deprive the CNMI of valuable resources and cause irretrievable damage to these resources in the process, he added.

"[On Pagan], that area there is our resource. We should be farming and we should have people out there fishing. We should have people living their lives," he said. "We're talking not just about making money, we're talking about quality of life. ...the Navy shouldn't be taking it away from us. It is not only unfair, it is just not necessary."

"The Navy claims that the new live-fire ranges are required to support the Marines who are a forward fighting force. But they're not a for-

ward fighting force because they have no lift—no ships to take them to the conflict. The ships are in Hawaii and California, where they will carry local Marines directly to the conflict because it is faster," Perez added.

The activist also stressed that there are ample training ranges already in place, fully developed and paid for, where the Marines from Guam can go to join the rest of the Marines for training.

The U.S. Department of Defense's outline of its military plans in the CNMI are contained in several reports that have been released over the last few years: the Mariana Islands Range Complex in 2010, the Mariana Islands Testing and Training that begun in 2015, the CNMI Joint Military Training, also in 2015, the Divert Activities and Exercises in Tinian in 2016, and the Litekyan Live Fire Training Range Complex in 2018.



VOLUNTEERS

The Commonwealth Cancer Association extends its appreciation to Kagman High School National Honor Society members, Northern Marianas College Nursing Club members and advisers for their help during the Triple J Bubble Color Fun Run-Walk last March 7, 2020.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

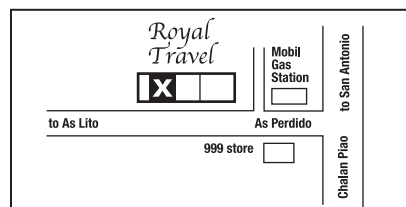
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'NMI will no longer be treated differently under a Sanders presidency'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) of the Democratic Party wins the Presidency, the CNMI will no longer be treated differently under federal programs compared to continental Americans, according to Shannon Jackson, the candidate's New Hampshire campaign director.

"Every one of us will have health care guaranteed un-

der Medicare-for-All and the ability to pursue an education without fear of crushing debt under College-for-All," said Jackson yesterday in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for comments about his visit to the island for the Democratic Party's Caucus in the CNMI this Saturday.

Jackson arrived on the island Tuesday for the caucus that will be held on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Ballroom, with simul-

taneous sub-caucuses to be held at the Northern Marianas College's VTC rooms on Tinian and Rota.

At the caucus, Democrats will elect delegates to the National Convention of the Democratic Party.

He said that Sanders' campaign is about all people coming together around an agenda that works for working people, from the continental U.S. to the Northern Marianas, where every child in CNMI will be guaranteed free, year-round school meals.

He said that giving the CNMI parity in federal programs is not a new fight for Sanders as the senator has fought to ensure the CNMI's full participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) and put the CNMI on par with other U.S. states on Medicaid by introducing the Territories Health Equity Act. That includes his work on securing \$11 billion for Community



Sanders

Health Centers in the Affordable Care Act, providing funding for the Kagman Community Health Center.

Jackson said that Sanders will dramatically expand access to community health centers which provide primary medical, dental, and mental health care, as well as low-cost prescription drugs, to nearly 30 million Americans, including Kagman Health Center patients.

He said Sanders' agenda speaks to the priorities and concerns of CNMI residents.

Jackson said the Green New Deal will invest \$16.3 trillion to solve the climate crisis and create 20 million good-paying jobs, helping the CNMI prepare for and recover from the impacts of climate change, investing trillions of dollars to rebuild crumbling infrastructure and ensure resiliency. As President, Sanders will also bring to bear the full resources of the United States for the CNMI's recovery from Super Typhoon

Yutu—for as long as is necessary, he added.

Jackson also highlighted Sanders' \$2.5 trillion federal plan to build nearly 10 million permanently affordable homes and invest nearly \$32 billion to end homelessness, including \$26 billion toward permanent supportive housing and an additional \$500 million to expand case management and social services to address homelessness.

A Sanders presidency will never cut back social security disability benefits that more than 1,100 people in the Marianas rely on, he added.

"But this campaign is not just about Bernie. It's about all of us. We welcome Marianas residents into this people-powered movement, and to come out to caucus for a better future for us all this Saturday," Jackson said.

It's Jackson's first trip to Saipan, but he said it's definitely not his last. "I am loving my time here. The island is gorgeous, the food is delicious, and the people are incredibly kind and welcom-

ing," he said.

As for his work with the Democratic Party of the NMI, Jackson said, "It has been a pleasure working with them and I am very pleased they are trying to bring new people in."

Jackson said this is what exactly they need to do, connect with people and welcome them to a party that represents them and their values.

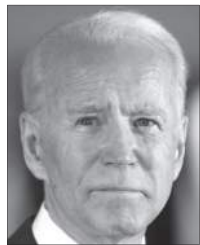
Kilili backs Biden

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday his endorsement of Joe Biden's candidacy for President of the United States.

In a statement yesterday, Sablan said that no other Democratic Party candidate has made a stronger case than Biden.

"He is the person who can bring our nation together and put aside the name-calling and

the racism we have lived with under the current President," said Sablan.



Biden

The CNMI delegate is officially an independent but usually caucuses with Democrats.

Aside from Biden, the other candidate in the Democratic Party race for nomination is Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

(*Saipan Tribune*)

RELATED NEWS

Kilili endorses Biden for President. **PAGE 11**

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of March 13, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. NAPA Auto & Truck Parts	02/12/2020 SW-2020-X-036	Backfill (Coral, Limestone, Boulders)	San Jose, Saipan	Wetland	Approved* 03/04/2020
2. Department of Public Lands	10/28/2020 SMS-2020-X-006	Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision	Central Plateau Area, Tinian	Major Siting	Approved* 03/03/2020
3. Rotary Club of Saipan	03/05/2020 SSm-2020-X-042	Construction of Signage	Oleai, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
3. Calvary International Mission Db a Agape Christian School	01/23/2020 SMS-2020-X-030	Three Storey Building with Basement	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete 03/10/2020
4. Vertical Aviation, LLC	03/11/2020 SPI-2020-X-043	Helipad, Hangar, & Office Facility	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & DORMITORY BUILDING
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2020-X-030

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building along Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

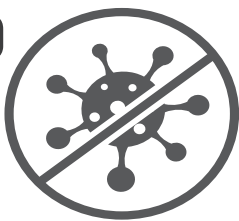
Calvary International Mission is proposing to construct a three story building with a basement including an athlete area, office spaces, storage rooms, locker rooms, restrooms, utility rooms, classrooms and dormitories, 41 parking stalls with landscaping, and a generator room. The project will be situated on a privately leased property identified as Lot No. 012 D 70, an area of about 4,890 square meters.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, March 30, 2020, at 5PM, along Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan, at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

5 steps to wash the right way



By following some basic steps on the proper way to wash your hands, you can help reduce your risk and do your part to protect others, if your community is affected by the coronavirus.



- Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.



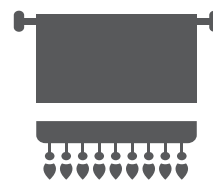
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.



- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.



- Rinse your hands well under clean running water.



- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

No sink? Use sanitizer

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in

most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Source: CDC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

2 sites to be used as alternate containment areas

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two sites on Saipan have been identified as alternate containment sites should there be a COVID-19 outbreak in the CNMI. The two centers are Kagman Juvenile Detention Center and the Gilbert C. Gymnasium.

According to Warren Villagomez, director of the Hospital and Public Health Preparedness Program of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., his agency has been

working with CHCC and Homeland Security to inspect the Kagman Juvenile Detention Center to make sure that the living space will be suitable and can be transformed into a medical facility should there be an outbreak.

Villagomez also stated that



Villagomez



Torres

since the gymnasium was used 10 years ago as a mass prophylaxis site, which is another

preventive measure, during the H1N1 crisis, it will be used again should the juvenile center be fully occupied.

In the U.S. mainland, every state has a different hospital designated for this

purpose that's away from the main hospital. "We don't have that on the island, so that's why we have this site to segregate the potential patient," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, which he said he raised during a conference call with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence. Torres made the statement during a press briefing Wednesday on the creation of a COVID-19 Task Force that will be at the frontline of the CNMI's efforts to prevent the entry of the virus into the CNMI.



Saipan's oldest retail health and safety store is Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. (SFSCNMI), located in Gualo Rai Village on Saipan. Safety 1st opened in 1993, and merged into its current store in 2008.

SFSCNMI's store manager Emi Agulto announced new product pricing, sales promotions for the coming months and a new company logo. Agulto re-introduced Dave Sellers, Safety 1st Guam's Director of Sales, who travels to Saipan weekly, and the store's friendly and capable staff of six.

SFSCNMI continues to be Saipan's best stocked health and safety outlet with inventory for fire safety, construction and traffic safety, personal protective equipment, hazardous materials mitigation, occupational health and safety compliance, medical and first aid kits, the latest and best models of Timberline, KEEN, Red Wing protective footwear, marine safety, fire extinguisher inspections and refills and your favorite Pelican cases and pugua pouches.

Agulto announced new pricing in response to buyers' choices in sourcing now in Saipan and online. Service has always been the cornerstone and commitment to Saipan, and now Safety 1st will reduce pricing in these trying times to keep our customers loyal to the service we provide. Customers are encouraged to check this out with Emi Agulto and the store's front end staff. Safety 1st guarantees to beat any on-island price for all product brand lines.

Safety Sam, a green 22 foot dancing float, will be on display at the Gualo Rai location often in the months to come. Agulto states, "Whenever Safety Sam is being displayed, we will give customers discounts that day on any item in the store, with the exception of inventory already on sale. Cash sales only."

When asked if the recent outbreak of coronavirus in Asian and other countries has affected business, manager Agulto urged everyone to take care of themselves and others. She added, "SFSCNMI has newly ordered 3M N-95 masks and additional inventory in Tyvek protective clothing, gloves, footwear and other protective equipment arriving to fit our islands' needs."

Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. specializes in products meeting NIOSH, NFPA, OSHA and all other U.S. federal guidelines specific to product safety standards. "We do not sell products manufactured in foreign countries that fall short of minimum safety standards, or are substandard in their normal wear and tear as a result of bad manufacturing. Safety 1st CNMI provides product warranties and guarantees from the manufacturers. We stand by what we sell 100%."

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Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

US should not restrict Chinese press

The administration of President Donald Trump was right to confront China's over its mistreatment of U.S. journalists.

Unfortunately, the State Department responded with the sort of tactic China uses to punish reporters, by curtailing visas of Chinese journalists working in the United States. The U.S. must defend the free press but do so without further restricting the press.

"If there is untruth, you combat it with truth," Steven Butler, Asia program director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, told this editorial board. "If there are restrictions on the free press, you combat it with more freedom of the press and freedom of speech."

Butler noted that the timing is terrible to enter a tit-for-tat over journalist visas, given the need for the U.S. and the rest of the world to learn more about what's happening with the coronavirus in China.

On Feb. 19, China announced it was expelling three Wall Street Journal reporters, in response to an opinion article critical of China's handling of the coronavirus outbreak and questioning risks of its financial markets.

Last week, the State Department responded by announcing it would restrict the number of visas available to Chinese reporters in the U.S. to 100. Since China has about 160 journalists in the U.S., that effectively cancels visas of about 60 of them. Administration officials also hinted that further limits may be placed on visas.

Withholding visas is right out of China's playbook for attempting to restrict and control foreign news coverage.

Authorities in China "are using visas as weapons against the press like never before, expanding their deployment of a longtime intimidation tactic as working conditions for foreign journalists markedly deteriorated in 2019," according to a new report from the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China.

China's latest expulsions might also be a response to the Trump administration's decision last month to characterize China's top five news outlets as government entities, not journalism organizations. The State Department reportedly described them as part of China's propaganda apparatus.

There may be truth to the department's assertion, but that still doesn't justify imposing press restrictions. The cure is worse than the disease. The Trump administration has also squandered much of its authority on this issue by repeatedly attacking U.S. news organizations and the press in general.

As the world's leading champion of democracy, the U.S. should be modeling the tolerance and support for the free press upon which democracy depends.

The State Department must find better, more productive ways to respond to China's press bullying.

(c)2020 The Seattle Times



Curbing globalization would compound coronavirus damage

The spread of the coronavirus from China and all the damage it's done to supply chains and global travel are prompting a growing backlash against globalization. The critics include long-time skeptics of trade, especially with China, but also those who more thoughtfully wonder if we have become too dependent on global markets.

The latest contagion, COVID-19, has certainly inflicted damage—on human health as well as the world economy. But a forced retreat from global economic integration would only compound the damage, inflicting a "cure" that could be worse than the virus itself.

In fact, the coronavirus should remind us of the growing value of globalization in all its manifestations—trade, supply chains, foreign investment, international travel. When those interconnections are disrupted, the economic pain is real. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recently estimated that the virus will shave a half-point or more off of global GDP growth this year. Global equity markets are reeling daily as the virus spreads.

To argue that the coronavirus means we would be better off with less globalization is like arguing that a power failure shows we are too dependent on electricity, and thus we should go back to private generators or candles.

That faulty reasoning ignores the massive gains to humanity that our more integrated global economy has bestowed, beginning right here in the United States. In recent decades, globalization has raised U.S. living standards, created better paying jobs, opened foreign markets to U.S. goods and services, lowered interest rates for borrowers, and delivered more choice and lower prices for consumers. In our era of globalization, Americans are living longer and healthier lives.

Beyond our shores, the spread of global capitalism has been a major factor in the reduction in global poverty. According to the World Bank, since globalization took off in 1990, the share of the world's population living in absolute poverty (the equivalent of \$1.90 a day) has dropped from 36% to below 10%, and the absolute number has fallen by 1.1 billion. Today, for the first time in human history, a majority of the world's people have reached the middle class.

Globalization has also created a more peaceful world, with economic interdependence encouraging nations to get along better with each other. Geopolitical dangers still exist, but the threat of conventional war between major powers remains low by historical standards.

Critics point to the risk of locating so much of the world's

By DANIEL GRISWOLD
Tribune News Service

Daniel Griswold is a senior research fellow and co-director of the Trade and Immigration Project at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.



manufacturing activity in China. There may indeed be sound reasons for global producers to consider making their supply chains less dependent on China in the future, but it would be impractical and economically foolish to "decouple" from the world's second-largest economy and number-one trading nation. Managing the risk of supply-chain disruption should be left to businesses, not to governments preempting millions of individual producer and consumer decisions.

Globalization itself diversifies risk. It means nations can trade for food when their own farmers suffer a bad harvest. Manufacturers can seek better-quality and lower-priced inputs from a diversity of suppliers, rather than being held captive by domestic cartels. Investors can better diversify their portfolios.

Any efforts to forcibly curb globalization would be akin to injecting another kind of virus into the global body economic, a kind of ideological fever that weakens our productive capacity. The Congressional Budget Office recently determined that the tariffs the Trump administration has imposed during the past two years have shaved a half-point off U.S. GDP—similar to the economic impact of the coronavirus.

The Trump administration's priority should be to focus on coordinating with other governments to find ways of containing and treating the virus. The right economic response is to remove whatever artificial barriers remain to trade and directly offset the disease's reverberations. That means repealing its ill-advised tariffs on imported steel, aluminum, washing machines, solar panels and more than \$300 billion in goods from China, which would arguably do as much good as the Fed's recent interest rate cut.

It would be policy malpractice of the worst kind for the United States and other governments to compound the negative effect of a medical virus with a policy response capable of causing the same kind of damage to the global economy and human well-being.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

As fatal virus spreads

We now know that coronavirus is a deadly respiratory disease. A medical article says the lungs are filled with fluid, blocking regular airflow that results in death.

The most troubling aspect is the lack of information of its pathology—origin and cause—even among the medical community. It doesn't even have a vaccine to contain or eradicate it. Medical professionals are in labs working the clock to figure out the beast.

Decrease

We're recipients of the devastation of the virus in the form of forced flight cancellations. It turns into far less tourists for the islands. Therefore, the simultaneous drop in revenues, a decrease in an already wobbly economy.

Too, when it renders hotel businesses empty it means employees may face work-hour reduction, furlough or termination. How do we help them meet family obligations?

Help

To aid in some appreciable economic recovery effort, Delegate Kili has introduced an appropriation measure of some \$100 million to cushion the heavy decrease in economic activities in the NMI. It's the only realistic assistance amidst a huge decrease in visitor arrival.

One may say raise taxes. Fine! But what's there to tax when

there's nothing to tax? Do you force hardworking people deeper into the misery of poverty when they're hardly making it?

In fact, the right thing to do is give those earning poverty income wages and salaries their entire income taxes. You empower them the ability to adequately provide for basic needs at home.

Hope and pray the U.S. Congress accommodates the SOS appropriation we need to reset rebuilding a ruined economy rooted in coronavirus pandemic. News conveys the familiarity of members of Congress of the devastation across the country triggered by the virus.

It's apocalyptic in magnitude that has brought the global community to its knees.

At Issue

The fatal viral infection isn't the bulk of the problem as much as the unknown aspect of the virus, according to medical articles.

The virus wreaks havoc on the elderly, especially those with weakened immune system. It's the most vulnerable group, according to medical reports.

At least research is continuing for the medication to contain or eradicate the contagious pathogen. It has two strains that remain a myth to doctors. One mutates, the other spreads. No medication as yet to cure or eradicate it altogether.

Work

Across the country, some employers have settled for "teleworking" where employees are allowed to work from home. It's one way to avoid contracting or spreading the fatal virus.

A county in Washington has encouraged its 2.2 million residents to work from home. A thoughtful decision to contain a deadly virus!

Is there local medication for this deadly virus? I haven't heard of anything up that alley other than casual talk from a dime-a-dozen people who talk as if factually doctors.

Hope

The devastation of the coronavirus grants the NMI the opportunity to learn never to take things for granted, e.g., total reliance on a single mini-tourism industry. It also highlights the need to improve health care services.

The prevailing decrease is a tale of the industry's fickleness, necessitating looking into other sectors for development

Coronavirus and the public good

By ANN KINZIG and SHADE SHUTTERS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's an election year, and Americans are debating big issues: capitalism and socialism, the role of government, the future of health care. These issues reflect what some see as a conflict between individual well-being and the greater public good. Do we want an up-by-your-bootstraps society where people mostly look after their own, or do we want a strong safety net for those who fall on hard times?

Now the coronavirus is upon us. In its shadow, the line between individual well-being and the public good is harder to see.

Consider this: a friend recently went to the drugstore to buy hand sanitizer. But the shelves were empty, and the clerk said, "The guy before you bought 20 bottles and cleaned us out." No doubt the hoarder thought he was protecting himself and his family. But in fact, he'd be safer if more people in the community could clean their hands. Hand sanitizer is now a public good.

This plays out at a larger societal level, too. Unlike most developed nations, the U.S. lacks a safety net of subsidized health care and paid leave. That means uninsured, low-wage workers have little choice but to work when they are sick. Many of those workers serve the public in a hands-on way—toiling in fast-food restaurants, caring for the disabled and elderly.

You may not agree that "health care is a human right," but it should now be more obvious that everyone is safer if the sick can get treatment and stay home when ill. In other words, we protect ourselves by protecting others.

A robust public health system is also a public good. But in 2018, the Trump administration cut funding for efforts to identify and contain emerging health threats abroad—including in China, where the coronavirus originated.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



purposes to brace the local economy when every facet of tourism goes south. It's a hard lesson the NMI can't ignore with adolescence given its devastation. Any resolve to relegate complacency?

The apocalyptic strength of the virus doesn't leave much room for suspect intelligent discussion. But the elected elite could converge to begin addressing the issue on a realistic basis. There's hardly room to doze off on the wheels, time and again. The terrain is all fatal downhill and must navigate it with caution.

Be that as it may, the current experience grants us the opportunity to develop other sectors capable of bracing basic needs when the visitor industry takes a nosedive. Or is the issue too much of a task?

Definitely, the powerful virus has grabbed the attention of the U.S. Congress where it recently appropriated \$8.3 billion to fight it. Labs across the country would be granted funds for treatment, vaccine and telemedicine.

Debate

National Democratic presidential contenders are cornered into discussing plans to ease health care costs for hardworking folks who could hardly afford it.

Indeed, this cost somehow hides until it shows its ugly face when we visit the hospital for serious ailments. Families have to endure paying for life insurance, auto and real estate insurance, first family home, including health care insurance.

Hope policymakers take time to revisit it amidst the reported 15,000 employees making do with poverty income in wages and salaries.

This may reflect a desire to put "America First" and push back on free riders who benefit from our investments without ponying up. But here, too, undermining the greater public good could hurt us.

The coronavirus also sheds new light on the role of government and the free market. In our increasingly globalized, laissez-faire economy, corporations understandably make decisions that boost their bottom lines. With globe-spanning supply chains and "just-in-time" inventory, corporations save money on parts and labor while avoiding sunk costs.

In a crisis, those supply chains can snap and inventories can be quickly depleted. For a corporation, the effects can be minor and temporary—headaches and lost profits. But the cumulative costs to society could be much greater and longer-lasting, including life-threatening shortages of medicine and food, economic disruption and civil unrest.

In fact, the public good is not served by free markets but by what economists call "complete markets"—those that reflect the true social cost of how we use resources. Governments should incentivize businesses to bring their private interests in closer alignment with the public good and ensure we maintain emergency stockpiles of essential resources, even if it costs money in non-crisis times.

Whether our political instincts are liberal or conservative, the coronavirus crisis should remind us that in many cases we help ourselves by helping others.

Ann Kinzig is a professor in the School of Life Sciences and a senior sustainability scientist in the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Shade Shutters is a research scientist in the Global Biosocial Complexity Initiative and a senior sustainability scientist in the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University.

Kili endorses Biden for President

By GREGORIO KILILI
C. SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sablan is the CNMI Delegate to U.S. Congress.



Joe Biden was the first presidential candidate to reach out to me in November last year. Over the following months I have watched and listened carefully as the many other Democratic candidates have made their case to the American people.

No candidate has made a stronger case than Joe Biden. He is the person who can bring our nation together and put aside the name-calling and the racism we have lived with under the current President.

I met Joe Biden in my first days as the representative of the people of the Mariana Islands in Congress. Our nation then was on the edge of a great economic depression. Joe Biden was the person that President Obama entrusted to put the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to work. And he did.

In the Marianas our schools quickly received the money needed to stay open. Taxpayers got a break. There were job-creating investments in infrastructure. Despite the speed and scale of spending, corruption and waste were never an issue. And our nation pulled through, in no small measure because of Joe Biden.

Today, we face a new crisis: the coronavirus. And we see how a lack of leadership we can trust is threatening our health and our economic wellbeing. We will all have to work together to overcome this new threat. But we should also learn from this experience that competent and compassionate leadership matters.

Joe Biden has shown he has those qualities of competence and compassion. He is a proven leader. He is someone we can trust.

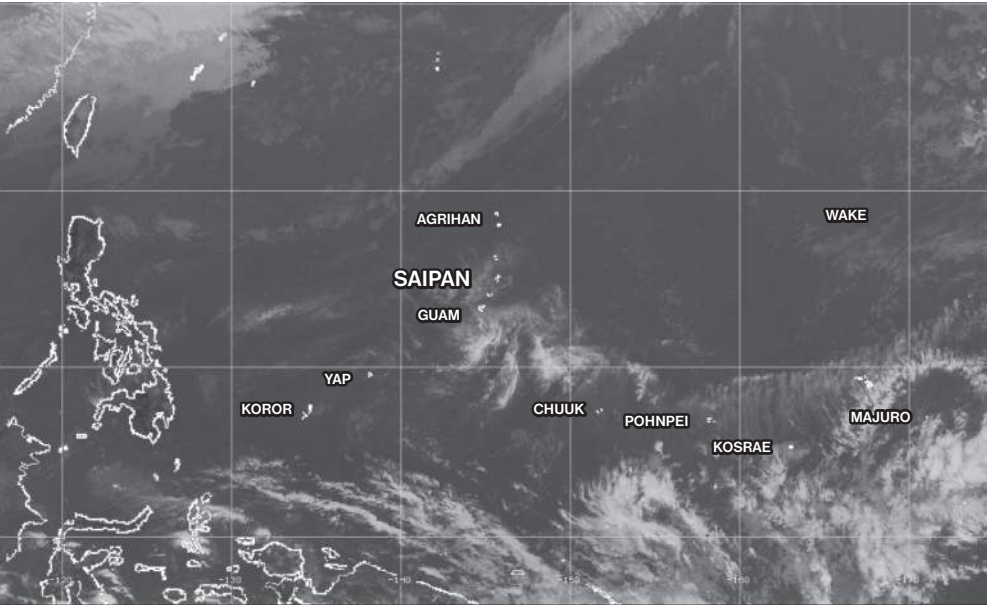
So today I am endorsing Joe Biden to be the Democratic nominee and the next President of the United States.

On Saturday, caucus goes in the Marianas will choose whom to support at the Democratic Convention in Milwaukee. I urge the Marianas caucus to support Joe Biden.

And on Nov. 3, I urge citizens of the Marianas able to vote in the Presidential election, either here at home or in other parts of the United States, to cast their ballots for Joe Biden.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 8:54 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Rather dry trade-wind regime in place over the Marianas. A minor ripple in the flow is creating some clouds near the Marianas today, however shower activity should be limited because the moisture is also. The K index was just 6 and the precipitable water is a rather paltry 1.25 inches. Moisture is expected to gradually increase and showers could become more abundant around Monday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°			
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°			
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°			
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	86° / 81°			
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°			
Kosrae	Windy	85° / 80°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 63°			
Beijing	Sunny	61° / 36°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°			
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 68°			
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 43°			
Los Angeles	Rain	61° / 54°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°			
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°			
New York	Rain	67° / 41°			
Osaka	Rain	52° / 43°			
Paris	Partly Cloudy	54° / 39°			
Busan	Sunny	54° / 37°			
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°			
Salem	Cloudy	74° / 57°			
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 47°			
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°			
Tokyo	Rain	48° / 39°			
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	73° / 42°			

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:19 AM	LOW TIDE		0.34
10:10 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.93
4:54 PM	LOW TIDE		0.09
11:02 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.78

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:10 AM	10:05 PM
Saturday	-	9:58 AM	11:05 PM
Sunday	-	10:48 AM	-
Monday	12:04 AM	11:39 AM	-
Tuesday	1:02 AM	12:32 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2020									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6		UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6						
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	1, 5		OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	4, 6	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		OZ625	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 5, 7	
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	4, 6		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ624	3:30pm	9:10pm	1, 5, 7		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	4, 7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		OZ703/6233	7:20pm	12:50pm+1	3, 5 via ICN	
OZ6243/704	3:10pm	5:00am+1	4, 6 via ICN		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM		UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR						

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	

TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

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Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp



RFP20 – RED004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 24, 2020

“LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN”

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and commercial development of the following public land:

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M ²
<i>(West of Main Road - Oceanside)</i>		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance	30,738
003 A 26	Vacant Land	109,003
Group of Properties West of Main Road:		374,041
<i>(East of Main Road - Inland)</i>		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
*NOTE: The swimming pool property will be available at the end of the Year 2021.		
003 A 18	18 Hole Golf Course	905,784
008 A 01	Club - House	30,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
Group of Properties East of Main Road:		1,075,180
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:		1,449,221

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If hardcopy is preferred, a .50 cents charge per page will assessed, however, full package of RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email.

A non-refundable administrative processing fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (US \$2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: **Department of Public Lands**. Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP20-RED004 - LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MARPI, SAIPAN**”. For proposers, one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the following address shown below. Submission deadline is April 24, 2020.

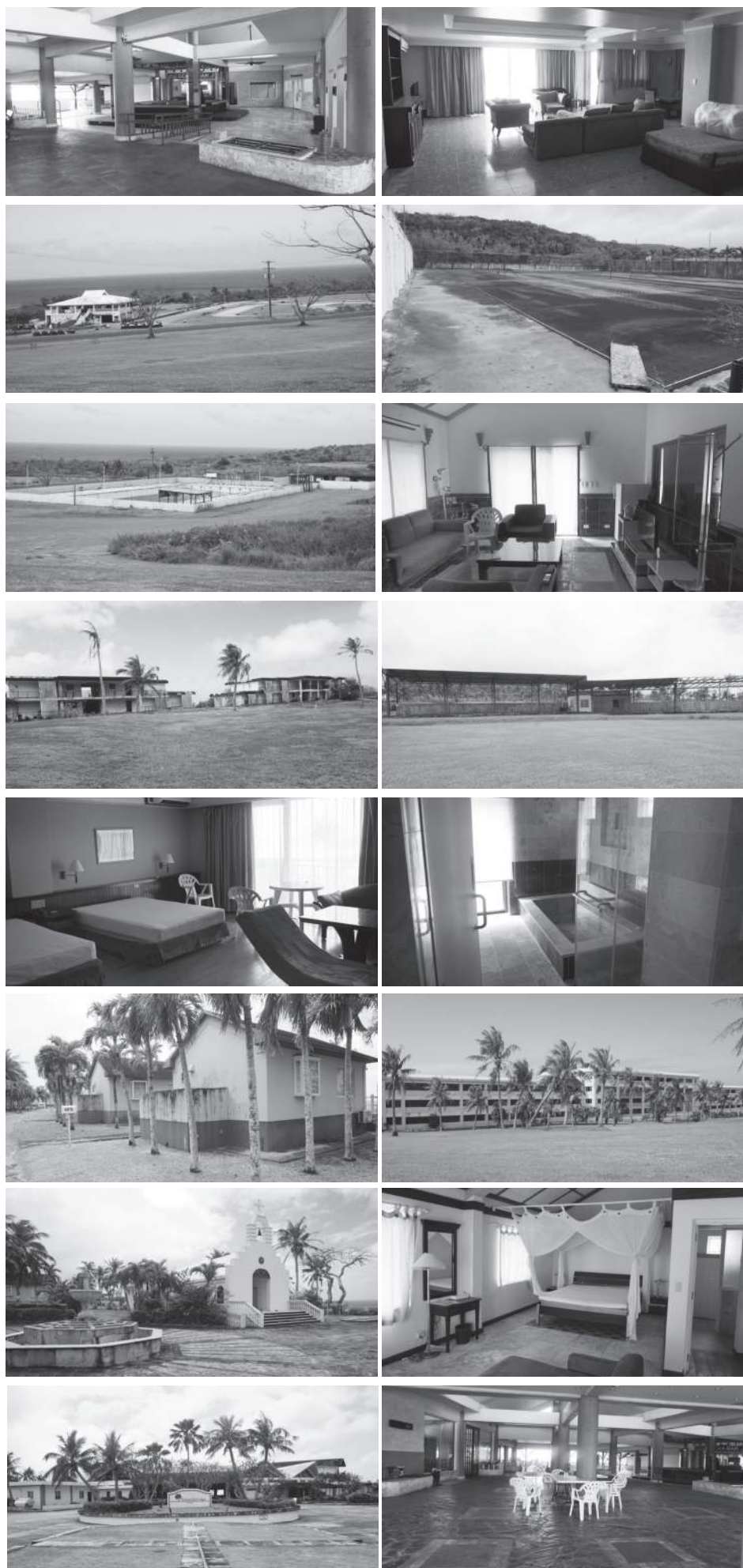
Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a “Question and Answer” format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

/s/ Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary
Department of Public Lands



(For more photos, please visit DPL website at www.dpl.gov.mp)

Rota Finance resident director pleads guilty to misconduct

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Finance resident director Josepha Barcinas Manglona, who is among the seven co-defendants of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig in a corruption case in the CNMI Superior Court, pleaded guilty yesterday.

This developed as Efraim Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to sanction Federal Bureau of Investigation spe-

cial agent Haejun Park for misconduct.

Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, through their lawyers, David G. Baner and Steven P. Pixley, said that Park had an ex parte communication with the defendants' expert witness and committed witness tampering.

Baner and Pixley said the Ataligs filed a joint motion last March 6 to add an expert witness, Dr. Gregory Vecchi, a former special agent with the Office of the Inspector General. Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig, through their counsels,

said they intend to call Vecchi as a witness regarding interviewing techniques and reporting involved in a criminal investigation.

Two days later, on March 8, Vecchi received a call from Park, Baner and Pixley said. They said Park started the conversation by reminding Vecchi that they had served abroad years ago and talked about their previous assignments together before revealing that he was the case agent in this case.

The lawyers said Park gave

Vecchi the impression that the prosecution has a strong case and made negative remarks about the defense investigator, who is a former FBI special agent.

Manglona, 57, signed a plea deal with the government and pleaded guilty to the charge of misconduct in public office, which is a misdemeanor—an offense punishable for a period of not more than one-year imprisonment.

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja accepted Manglona's guilty plea and ordered the im-

position of the sentence to be suspended for six months.

Manglona was placed on supervised probation for six months, ordered to pay a fine, court costs, and probation fees to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation.

She was ordered to pay restitution to the CNMI government in the amount of \$938 by way of payroll deductions in the amount of \$100 per pay period.

Manglona was required to cooperate with the Office of the Attorney General and the

U.S. Attorney's Office and tell the truth if called upon to testify in this matter and in the federal case.

Manglona will be granted immunity.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on June 1, 2018 to Aug. 30, 2018 on Rota, Manglona improperly accepted per diem and rental car payments and took administrative leave for days when she was not traveling on government business.

Efraim's four co-defendants are Dean Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, Josepha Manglona, and Dennis Mendiola. Dean Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, and Dean Manglona have not resolved their case.

The remaining three co-defendants—Vanessa Charfauros, Magdalena Mesngon, and Dexter Apatang—have already disposed of their cases by plea agreement.

The bench trial will be on March 20.

In the Superior Court case, Efraim Atalig and the seven co-defendants are charged with misconduct in public office in connection with the Guam political rally.

In the federal court case, the charges against Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are charged jointly with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement. The jury trial will commence this Wednesday.

 **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING
DESIGN SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020

 **COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PARKING LOT EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-20**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for expansion of the parking lot at the Tinian International Airport on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 27, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2020

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
E-mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com
Attorney for Petitioner Velma A. Deleon Guerrero-Ada

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE) Civil Action
MATTER OF THE) No. 20-0103
ESTATE OF)
GREGORIO) NOTICE OF HEARING
CABRERA DELEON) AND NOTICE TO
GUERRERO) CREDITORS
DOB: 9/9/1937) DATE: April 9, 2020
Deceased.) TIME: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE
GREGORIO CABRERA DELEON GUERRERO OR HIS
ESTATE:**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Velma A. Deleon Guerrero-Ada has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Gregorio Cabrera Deleon Guerrero, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiyah) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein- above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this
11th day of March 2020.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT / DEPUTY CLERK

 **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TSA RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport TSA Recapitalization Program Project, No. CPA-SA-006-16, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: February 27, 2020

 **COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-19**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for improvements to the water system for ARFF rapid refill at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.


Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/19/2020

 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM #1

03/09/2020

ITB20-GOV-057 CUC Water System Mitigation Project, Site 5 As-Matuis

This is to notify all potential Bidders that the items contained in this addendum are added to and/or deleted and become part of the specifications and bid documents for the above referenced bid.

The following is a revision to the Instruction to Bidders:

5. BID GUARANTEE: All bids exceeding \$25,000.00 shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid, which may be a bid bond (form enclosed), certified check, or cashier's check, made payable to the CNMI Treasurer. Such bid bond or check shall serve to guarantee that (a) the bidder shall not withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids; (b) if his bid is accepted, he will enter into a formal contract with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in accordance with the contract for construction included as part of the contract documents; and (c) the required performance and payment bonds will be submitted. In the event of the withdrawal of said bid within said period, the bidder shall be liable to the Government for the full amount of the bid guarantee as representing the damage to the Government on account of the default of the bidder in any particular case hereof. The bid guarantee shall be returned to bidders after the Government and the accepted bidder have executed the contract and the executed performance and payment bonds have been approved by the Government. A surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury shall execute guarantee bonds and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI or an authorized representative thereof. Checks or money orders submitted as a bid guarantee shall be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Line 13 of Section 5, is revised to say:
"A surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury or a surety acceptable to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, has a valid business license and of good standing with the Department of Commerce as a surety company".

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Acknowledge receipt of this addendum on the Bid Form. Questions concerning this project addendum shall be directed to Leona Deleon Guerrero in writing by e-mail to ldlguerrero@omb.gov.mp or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement and Supply

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1

CNMI govt offers GHLI members a chance to change health plans

Supported by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and due to the recent economic impact of global events, the Department of Finance Government Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund would like to offer members the opportunity to change health insurance plans starting March 15, 2020, to April 15, 2020.

“We recognize the impor-

tance of members having health insurance even in this time of economic difficulty. Members will be allowed to change their plans to a lower plan,” stated a statement issued by the Office of the Governor yesterday.

According to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, the government continues to work with our health insurance provider to ensure

all government employees and retirees have continued coverage.

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., general agent for Aetna in Susupe, located on the first floor of the Joeten Center, will be available to assist existing members with any changes to their plan.

The plan change period will be from March 15, 2020 to April 15, 2020. **(PR)**

Hotel occupancy drops to 19% in 1 week

The CNMI's hotel occupancy rate dropped drastically in just one week due to flight cancellations as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

During a CNMI Department of Labor workforce resource fair last Wednesday, guest speaker Gloria Cavanagh, president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas, informed attendees that the hotel occupancy rate is now down to 19.3% from 23% just five days prior.

“With continued cancellations in the Korean market and now the Japan market, the numbers are expected to further plunge,” she said.

In her presentation, Cavanagh explained that for the Japan market, HANMI projects 6,243 arrivals in March. How-

ever, even if 100% of these visitors arrived, this would result in a hotel occupancy rate of 36% only.

“It is actually unreasonable to think that we are going to have 100%,” she said.

Cavanagh added that tourism industry has already lost \$50.5 million or more in gross revenue due to the continued cancellations of flights in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. This means a \$92.5 million loss in on-island expenditures, an \$11.5 million loss in gross revenue tax collections, and a \$3.7 million loss in hotel occupancy tax collections.

Cavanagh also shared the cost-cutting measures that HANMI hotels are implementing in response to the downward trend in tourist arrivals.

She said some hotels are closing towers, wings or category rooms; some are reducing food and beverage operations, including restaurants; some are shutting down amenities such as swimming pools and water parks; most have reduced work hours; some are mandating employees to take paid leave; terminating contracts with manpower agencies; and others are asking employees to take an extended leave without pay.

Fortunately, participating HANMI hotels have not laid off employees yet. Cavanagh said they have been prolonging layoffs but with the light at the end of the tunnel being at a distance, this could happen soon.

“It's going to get worse before it gets better,” she said. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-028, REV.1

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLAIRIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-19-028, Rev.1 Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 2, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 16, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-014

LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation.*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 9, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-19-036, REV.1

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have previously purchased CUC-IFB-19-036, no purchase is needed but will still have to register in order to receive the package.

Contractors must provide proof of “Indemnity Liability Insurance,” specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-19-036-Rev.1, Security Guard Services*”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 14, 2020**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on March 25, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Discounts galore at Bali Fashion

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A store that primarily sells ready-to-wear clothing on Saipan is having a sale to help soften the economic blow the community is currently experiencing due to the lack of tourists brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Bali Fashion in Gualo Rai is having a 25-50% sale on clothes (excluding underwear, jeans, and slacks) and as well as a 10% discount on video games, according to manager Abbas Shakir.

"Times are extremely difficult for everyone in the CNMI as well as small business owners like us. However, we believe that providing our people with a 25-50% sale like this is our way of saying thank you and is a small appreciation act to the people of the CNMI," he said.

Aside from clothes and video games, Bali Fashion also sells electronic items and a variety of computer accessories.

"Our bestsellers vary. However, our latest PS4 and Xbox games are quite popular and our 3-for-\$25 items, which include T-shirts and shorts for men, women, and kids, have always been a hit," he added.

Bali Fashion has been serving the CNMI since 1990 and Shakir attributes the store's lasting success to four factors—customer service, affordability, various size ranges for clothes, and quality.

"These make us a very unique store. This is what allowed us to build relationships with customers, which have lasted since the store first opened 30 years ago,"



MARK RABAGO

Bali Fashion is located along Middle Road next to Eucon International College in Gualo Rai.



MARK RABAGO

Bali Fashion manager Abbas Shakir.

he said.

As for the name, Shakir clarified that it has nothing to do with the famous Indonesian tourist island. Rather, "bali" is a Chamorro slang for quality or solid.

On top of the ongoing 20-50% sale, loyal and even new customers of Bali Fashion should be on the lookout for an even more "epic" sale at the store soon.

"We'd like to say a huge

thank you to all our customers who have been supporting us for the past 30 years and allowed us to build lasting relationships with. We couldn't have asked more due to the amount of love we receive from the people here," he said.

Bali Fashion is along Middle Road next to Eucon International College in Gualo Rai. It is open Monday-Sunday from 11am to 8pm. For more information, call 233-1190.

economies, causing widespread damage to hotels, car rental companies, museums and restaurants.

In his address from the Oval Office, Trump said U.S. restrictions on people coming from China and other countries with early outbreaks of COVID-19 had held down the number of cases in the United States compared with Europe. He blamed the European Union for failing to immediately stop travel from China "and other hot spots," which he said had led to clusters of outbreaks in the U.S. being "seeded by travelers from Europe."

"After consulting with our top government health professionals," Trump said, "I have decided to take several strong but necessary actions to protect the health and

well-being of all Americans. To keep new cases from entering our shores, we will be suspending all travel from Europe to the United States for the next 30 days."

Homeland Security officials later clarified that the restrictions would apply only to most foreign nationals who have been in the 26-nation Schengen area of Europe in the 14 days before their scheduled arrival in the United States. The Schengen countries, which do not restrict travel among each other, include Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

The ban won't apply to legal permanent residents of the United States or to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. This category of people will be detailed in a formal proclamation, the officials said.

Nation

Trump imposes limits on travel from Europe to US for 30 days

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taking dramatic action, President Donald Trump announced Wednesday he is sharply restricting passenger travel from 26 European nations to the U.S. and moving to ease the economic cost of a viral pandemic that is roiling global financial markets and disrupting the daily lives of Americans.

Trump, in a rare Oval Office address to the nation, said the month-long restriction on travel would begin late Friday, at midnight. After days of playing down the coronavirus threat, he blamed Europe for not acting quickly enough to address the "foreign virus" and claimed that U.S. clusters were "seeded" by European travelers.

"We made a lifesaving move with early action on China," Trump said. "Now we must take the same action with Europe."

Trump said the restrictions won't apply to the United Kingdom, and there would be exemptions for "Americans who have undergone appropriate screenings." He said the U.S. would monitor the situation to determine if travel could be reopened ear-

lier.

The State Department followed Trump's remarks by issuing an extraordinary global health advisory cautioning U.S. citizens to "reconsider travel abroad" due to the virus and associated quarantines and restrictions.

Trump spoke after days of confusion in Washington and in the face of mounting calls on the president to demonstrate greater leadership. At times, though, his remarks contributed to the uncertainty.

While Trump said all European travel would be cut off, Homeland Security officials later clarified that the new travel restrictions would apply only to most foreign nationals who have been in the "Schengen Area" at any point for 14 days prior to their scheduled arrival to the United States. The area includes France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Austria, Belgium and others, and the White House said the zone has the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases outside of mainland China.

The restrictions don't ap-



Trump

ply to legal permanent residents, immediate family of U.S. citizens or others "identified in the proclamation" signed by Trump.

And Trump mis-spoke when he said the prohibitions would "not only apply to the tremendous amount of trade and cargo, but various other things." The official proclamation released after Trump spoke made clear it applies to people, not goods and cargo.

The Oval Office address represented an abrupt shift in tone from a president who has repeatedly sought to play down the severity of the virus outbreak. Many Americans shared a similar mindset in recent weeks, but the grueling events of Wednesday changed the mood: Communities canceled public events nationwide, universities moved to cancel in-person classes, and families grappled with the impact of disruptions to public schools. The number of confirmed cases of the infection topped 1,000 in the U.S. and the World Health Organization declared the global crisis is now a pandemic.

Sanders isn't dropping out, but where does he go from here?

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—Bernie Sanders is vowing to press ahead with his presidential campaign at least long enough to debate Joe Biden this weekend, even while acknowledging his deficit in the Democratic race may be insurmountable.

The Vermont senator on Wednesday offered no further details on what his campaign may look like before or after he and Biden — the last two major candidates vying for the Democratic presidential nomination — spar Sunday night on stage in Arizona. The only thing on Sanders' public schedule was taping an appearance on Wednesday's "Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

And that will continue to raise questions—as unlikely as it may seem less than two weeks after losing his once-commanding front-runner status—about how long Sanders will persist against increasingly daunting odds, especially as the pressure within his own party increases exponentially.

Sanders addressed report-

ers in Burlington after offering no public statements Tuesday night, when he suffered a devastating defeat in Michigan and losses in Missouri, Idaho and Mississippi. Sanders noted that he won North Dakota and that the continuing count in Washington state remained close—but admitted he was trailing badly in the race to secure enough delegates to clinch the nomination before the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee.

"While our campaign has won the ideological debate, we are losing the debate over electability," Sanders said, meaning Democrats think Biden has a better chance of beating President Donald Trump in the fall. "That is what millions of Democrats and independents today believe."

He was quick to add that he thinks he's the stronger choice, and that he could show that during Sunday's debate. Sanders promised to press Biden for answers about millions of Americans who don't have health insurance, a criminal

justice system he said unfairly targets and punishes minorities and raising the federal minimum wage.

After that, though, Democrats' desperate desire to defeat Trump could affect his calculus. Should Sanders get out soon, he could save Democrats months of a messy and expensive primary fight. But an early departure would also deprive the party's most passionate supporters, including many young people, of the one man who embodies the dramatic change they crave.

Sanders also noted that he was winning a greater percentage of young voters while Biden continues to run up the score with older ones.

"Today, I say to the Democratic establishment, in order to win in the future, you need to win the voters who represent the future of our country," Sanders said. "And you must speak to the issues of concern to them. You cannot simply be satisfied by winning the votes of people who are older."

Asia

Duterte to be tested for virus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte would be tested for the new coronavirus Thursday after he met with Cabinet officials who were exposed to infected people and have now self-quarantined, official said Thursday.

Duterte has no symptoms of COVID-19 but wanted to make sure he is healthy and could continue to engage with the public, said Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go, a former presidential aide who still accompanies Duterte to official functions.

“Considering that some Cabinet members we engage with regularly have been exposed to individuals who were tested positive of COVID-19 it is just prudent for us to take precautionary measures in compliance with the advice of our health officials,” Go said.

Go, who had been an aide to Duterte for years before

being elected to the Senate last year, told reporters he and Duterte planned to be tested but did not elaborate.

At least five Cabinet members, including Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, have said they were exposed separately to COVID-19 patients and decided to self-quarantine, officials said.

Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said some finance officials who have been with Dominguez later gave a news briefing to reporters at a presidential palace briefing room, which would now be disinfected along with a media working area.

“Some members of the Malacañang press corps who covered the economic briefing also deemed it best to undergo self-quarantine,” Andanar said, referring to journalists regularly covering presidential



Duterte

palace events.

Quarantines and avoiding or restricting public interactions has been a primary method of trying to prevent the spread of the virus.

Philippine health officials have reported 49 cases of infections and two people, a Chinese and a Filipino, have died.

The illness causes mild to moderate symptoms in most people but can be severe in the elderly and people with other health problems.

The 74-year-old Duterte, who skipped work due to illness a number of times last year, postponed a trip to Boracay island on Thursday due to concerns over COVID-19, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said. He had planned to travel to the famed beach resort to promote domestic tourism amid a slump in arrivals of foreign tourists because of the pandemic.

Japan marks tsunami anniversary, no govt memorial amid virus

TOKYO (AP)—Some residents along the Japanese northern coast stood on roadsides overlooking the sea, offering silent prayers for their loved ones lost in a massive earthquake and tsunami nine years ago Wednesday. But in Tokyo and many other places around Japan, the day was being remembered without a main government ceremony due to the coronavirus outbreak.

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami devastated large swaths of Japan's northern coast and triggered a meltdown at a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, contaminating large areas and dislocating many residents.

For the past eight years, residents and officials have gathered at local town halls to pray, while in Tokyo, the government held a main memorial attended by the Imperial Family members, televised live nationwide. This year, memorial events have been called off following Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's request to cancel, postpone or downsize gatherings as part of measures to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

In Tokyo, Abe and his ministers gathered at the Prime Minister's Office and offered a silent prayer at 2:46 p.m., the moment the offshore earthquake struck nine

years ago. At the outset of his speech, Abe apologized over the cancellation of the government ceremony. Japan has confirmed more than 1,200 cases of the coronavirus, including 696 from a cruise ship and 19 deaths.

Abe said reconstruction of the disaster hit areas is now “at its finishing stage.”

“I would like many people from around the world to experience the reality of the disaster-hit areas on their way to recovery through upcoming Olympics, Paralympics and other occasions,” Abe said. His government has said the 10th anniversary next year will be the last it will organize.

Many residents, however, especially those in Fukushima, are far from recovery. The two towns that are home to the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant are still off-limits and unlivable, while many residents in the surrounding areas had to provide their land to build facilities to store nuclear waste for decades-long storage.

The quake and tsunami left more than 18,000 people dead and destroyed many houses and businesses. The meltdown at the Fukushima plant sent more than 160,000 people fleeing the region. More than 40,000 are still unable to return home due to radiation contamination and

concerns.

In disaster-hit towns in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, desks were put out for visitors to sign messages and lay flowers. Residents visiting their family graveyard, parks and towns all stopped, bowed and prayed in silence.

Hundreds of people gathered at Tokyo's Hibiya Park to mark the anniversary with musical performances. In Tokyo's posh shopping district of Ginza, pedestrians and visitors, many of them wearing face masks, stopped at an intersection of a clock tower and bowed in silence.

Kiminari Suzuki, a 44-year-old evacuee from Fukushima who was at the memorial event at the park, said he feels that the community of disaster-hit residents is shrinking and the memories are fading nine years after the disaster.

“I came here because I had nowhere else to go to share our feelings,” said Suzuki, who had to abandon his damaged home and move into a shelter before ending up in Tokyo recently.

“The time has still frozen at that moment when the quake hit, and I often think of the nuclear power problem,” he said. “My life still hasn't returned to normal, and I wonder if it's because of the disaster or because of my own fault.”

World

Coronavirus now a pandemic

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic and urged aggressive action from all countries to fight it, as U.S. stocks plunged into bear market territory and several American cities joined global counterparts in banning large gatherings.

By using the charged word “pandemic” after shying away from calling it so earlier, the U.N. health agency sought to shock lethargic countries into pulling out all the stops.

“We have called every day for countries to take urgent and aggressive action. We have rung the alarm bell loud and clear,” WHO's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday.

“All countries can still change the course of this pandemic. If countries detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilize their people in the response,” he said. “We are deeply concerned by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction.”

After downplaying the threat of the virus for days, President Donald Trump announced in an Oval Office address he is sharply restricting European passenger travel to the U.S. and moving to ease the pandemic's economic costs.

The NBA became the first major American sports league to suspend play, which raised questions about college basketball's championships, which for now will be played without fans attending. In Italy, soccer club



A worker from a Servpro disaster recovery team wearing a protective suit and respirator peers out a window as he waits to exit the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Wash. for a break from cleaning the facility, Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Juventus said defender Daniele Rugani tested positive.

Iran and Italy are the new front lines of the fight against the virus that started in China, the WHO said.

“They're suffering but I guarantee you other countries will be in that situation soon,” said Dr. Mike Ryan, the WHO's emergencies chief.

For the global economy, virus repercussions were profound, with increasing concerns of wealth- and job-wrecking recessions. U.S. stocks wiped out more than all the gains from a huge rally a day earlier as Wall Street continued to reel.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1,464 points, bringing it 20% below its record set last month and putting it in what Wall Street calls a “bear market.” The broader S&P 500 is just 1 percentage point away from falling into bear territory and bringing to an end one of the greatest runs in Wall Street's history.

WHO officials said they

thought long and hard about labeling the crisis a pandemic — defined as sustained outbreaks in multiple regions of the world.

The risk of employing the term, Ryan said, is “if people use it as an excuse to give up.” But the benefit is “potentially of galvanizing the world to fight.”

Underscoring the mounting challenge: soaring numbers in the U.S. and Europe's status as the new epicenter of the pandemic. While Italy exceeds 12,000 cases and the United States has topped 1,300, China reported a record low of just 15 new cases Thursday and three-fourths of its infected patients have recovered.

China's totals of 80,793 cases and 3,169 deaths are a shrinking portion of the world's more than 126,000 infections and 4,600 deaths.

“If you want to be blunt, Europe is the new China,” said Robert Redfield, the head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WORLD BRIEFS

Death toll from tainted drugs in Mexico rises to 5

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's state-owned oil company said the death toll from a tainted drug given to dialysis patients at one of its regional hospitals has risen to five. Petroleos Mexicanos said in a statement late Tuesday that 53 patients were still receiving treatment, 26 of whom are still hospitalized. In late February, dozens of dialysis patients at the Pemex Regional Hospital received heparin sodium medication that later tested positive for the bacteria *Klebsiella* spp, according to Pemex. Mexico's National Human Rights Commission said it believes approximately 90 patients

received the tainted drugs and sent a team to the hospital in the Tabasco state city of Villahermosa to interview patients. It said in a statement Wednesday that the hospital and Pemex had refused its requests for contact with relatives of the dead. Pemex operates its own health care system, including hospitals, for employees, retirees and their families.

UN condemns increasing threat from terrorism in Africa

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council strongly condemned the increasing threat to peace and security in Africa from terrorism Wednesday and

urged all countries “to consider mobilizing more predictable resources and expertise” to strengthen African efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. A Chinese-sponsored presidential statement approved by all 15 council nations also urged the 193 U.N. member states and the United Nations system to take measures “to address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.” The council encouraged countries to foster quality education and provide employment opportunities and vocational training for young people and include them in all levels of decision-making, saying “such efforts contribute to countering recruitment to terrorism.”

Off The Wall

It's cloudy with a chance of iron rain at a distant world

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—At one hot, faraway world, it's always cloudy with a chance of iron rain.

That's the otherworldly forecast from Swiss and other European astronomers who have detected clouds full of iron droplets at a hot Jupiterlike planet 390 light-years away.

This mega planet is so hot on the sunny side—4,350 degrees Fahrenheit (2,400 degrees Celsius)—that iron vaporizes in the atmosphere. The iron likely condenses on the cooler night side of the planet, almost certainly turning into rain.

"Like droplets of metal falling from the sky," said Christophe Lovis of the University of Geneva who took part in the study.

The iron rain would be extremely dense and pack a pretty good punch, according

to the research team whose study appears Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

"It's like in the heavy steel industry on Earth where they melt iron, and so you see this melting, flowing metal. That's pretty much what we are talking about here," Lovis told The Associated Press.

Discovered just a few years ago, the planet designated Wasp-76b is nearly twice the size of Jupiter, the largest in our solar system, yet takes less than two days to orbit its star. Because the planet's rotation matches the time it takes to complete one orbit, the same side always faces the star.

So it's always daytime on the star-facing side, with clear skies. And it's always nighttime on the night side, where temperatures fall to about 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit (1,500 degrees Celsius) and the sky is continually overcast

with iron rain, according to the researchers.

Strong wind—gusting at more than 11,000 mph (18,000 kph)—constantly sweeps some of the vaporized iron from the day to night side of the planet. Inside the day-to-night transition zone, clouds appear to form as temperatures begin to drop.

"Surprisingly, however, we do not see the iron vapor in the morning" as night transitions back into day, lead scientist David Ehrenreich of the University of Geneva said in a statement.

The astronomers concluded the most likely explanation is that it rains iron on the night side.

Ehrenreich and his team studied Wasp-76b and its extreme climate using a new instrument on the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Suspect in car theft claimed she was Beyoncé Knowles

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico woman is facing charges after police say she stole a car and later tried to claim she was pop singer Beyoncé Knowles. Surena Henry was arrested Saturday morning in Las Cruces, New Mexico, when an officer spotted a vehicle that resembled one that recently had been reported stolen, the Las Cruces Sun-News reports. According to court documents, the 48-year-old Henry ignored the officer's orders to pull over and later parked in front of her home. Documents say Henry told the officer she was Beyoncé. Police also reported Henry told the officer she found the keys in the vehicle and decided to take it for a joy ride. She also allegedly told police that she didn't stop driving when she saw the emergency lights because she didn't feel like it. Henry is charged with unlaw-

ful taking of a motor vehicle, concealing identity and resisting or obstructing an arrest.

South Africa's 'upside down' house attracts tourists

HARTEBEESTPOORT, South Africa (AP)—With its roof on the ground and its floor in the air, an upside down house is attracting tourists who want to see the world from different perspective. Located near Hartbeestpoort, about 75 kilometers (47 miles) north of Johannesburg, the house is inverted on the outside and inside. Visitors take pictures of themselves in rooms that have sofas and chairs hanging from the ceiling. The kitchen is also upside down with appliances appearing to defy gravity.

Police jail woman who paid bail with marijuana-scented cash

ASHLAND, La. (AP)—A Louisiana woman was ar-

rested on drug charges after police determined the \$5,000 cash she used to post an inmate's bail had a "strong odor of marijuana." Authorities began investigating Stormy Lynn Parfait, 33, on Friday, shortly after she showed up at the Ashland jail to pay the bond fee for an inmate being held there on drug charges, the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office said in a statement obtained by news outlets. After catching a whiff of the cash, a detective searched her car while she was still at the jail and found nearly \$40,000 more inside, along with about 100 Klonopin pills and a food stamp card that wasn't registered to Parfait, according to the sheriff's statement. Investigators found hundreds of additional pills and cash as well as marijuana, cocaine and paraphernalia, during a search of Parfait's home later, news outlets reported. Four unattended children there were turned over to a relative.

Science & Technology

Cluster of coronavirus cases is tied to US biotech meeting

BOSTON (AP)—A biotech meeting at a hotel in downtown Boston appears to be the source of a cluster of the coronavirus in the U.S.—and a warning for employers who are still holding big gatherings as the outbreak spreads.

Seventy-seven of the 95 confirmed cases in Massachusetts have been linked to a meeting of executives with Biogen, a company based in

Cambridge, next to Boston, that develops therapies for neurological diseases, state officials said.

An additional 12 people who have tested positive for the virus outside Massachusetts have been linked to the Feb. 26-27 meeting, including five in North Carolina, two in Indiana, and one each in New Jersey, Tennessee and Washington, D.C., officials said.

Two tested positive in Europe, Biogen spokesman David Caouette said Wednesday.

The Biogen cluster underscores the danger in continuing to host business gatherings as the virus, which has sickened tens of thousands of people since emerging in China in December, spreads, said Marc Lipsitch, a Harvard University infectious disease epidemiologist.

Avoiding risks when moving to Windows 10

Q: The older apps on my Windows 7 PC, such as Office 2007, don't run correctly on my new Windows 10 laptop. As a result, I'd like to continue using the Windows 7 PC for most things that aren't related to the internet. But I've forgotten the password to my Windows 7 PC (I haven't shut it off in years.) What if it shuts down while I'm networking the Windows 7 and Windows 10 PCs together?

A: You shouldn't connect your Windows 7 and Windows 10 PCs on a home network. It opens up the Windows 7 PC (which no longer gets security updates) to internet threats. It can be infected by malware, even if you never use it for e-mail or Web browsing.

Use your Windows 7 PC only as a stand-alone computer with no network connections. You can maintain your access to the PC by using a password recovery program. (Such programs work by either finding your password in Windows, or erasing the password so you can create a new one. And, yes, they prove how little protection a password provides.) Download a recovery program (see tinyurl.com/ya3doy2a) to a flash drive on your Windows 10 PC, then move the flash drive to the Windows 7 PC.

You can already see what a pain it will be if

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



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you have to transfer data between the two PCs via flash drive. The more practical approach would be to abandon your Windows 7 PC and use only the Windows 10 computer.

To do that, replace Office 2007 with a newer version. It won't ever work smoothly on Windows 10 because its Access database and Outlook e-mail programs are outdated. Those problems, and any future incompatibilities resulting from Windows 10 updates, will never be fixed because Office 2007 no longer gets Microsoft technical support. To make older non-Microsoft programs work on Windows 10, use "compatibility mode," which simulates earlier versions of Windows (see tinyurl.com/y8j9cxv8).

Science Matters

What might 5G phoning bring?

A super-fast fifth generation of mobile phones remains largely theoretical.

1G, first generation
Analog; mobile phones allowed voice calls from a car or anywhere else
1973-1980s

2G, 2nd-gen (LTE/WiMax systems)
Digital, encrypted; portable short messages; still used in texting
1991

3G, 3rd-gen (UMTS)
Faster data networks; enough speed for smartphones (portable computers)
1998

3.5G, enhanced 3rd Faster wireless broadband

4G, 4th-gen (GSM)
Faster data transfer; made today's connected devices and services possible
2008

5G, 5th generation (NR, or new radio) First business use, March 2019
Spread to public, March 2020

Promises even faster data transfer, 50 megabits/second or more
More processing power in cell phones and other connected devices
Eventually: "Virtual reality" systems; self-driving cars, remote medicine

Critical to spread of the Internet of Things
About 8.4 billion internet-connected devices ("things") in 2017.
5G could push the number in 2020 to 20 billion, much of it in industry

T-Mobile's projected 'smart' parking

\$4,000 Motorola DynaTAC 'brick' (1973)

IBM Simon Personal Communicator (1994)

Apple iPhone 1 (2007)

Samsung modem for wireless use of laptop (2010)

Source: Verizon; Cisco; Tribune News Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson test positive for coronavirus

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Hanks and his actress-singer wife Rita Wilson have tested positive for the coronavirus, the actor said in a statement Wednesday.

Hanks said the couple were in Australia and felt tired, with colds, body aches and slight fevers. "To play things right, as is needed in the world right now, we were tested for the coronavirus and were found to be positive," Hanks said.

The 63-year-old Oscar-winner said they will be "tested, observed and isolated for as long as public health and safety requires."

"Not much more to it than a one-day-a-time approach, no?" added Hanks.

Hanks had been in Australia

shooting an untitled Elvis Presley biopic directed by Baz Luhrmann. Hanks plays Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker. The film, currently slated for release in October 2021, has suspended production, Warner Bros. said.

Australia has confirmed more than 120 cases of infection, with three deaths from COVID-19.

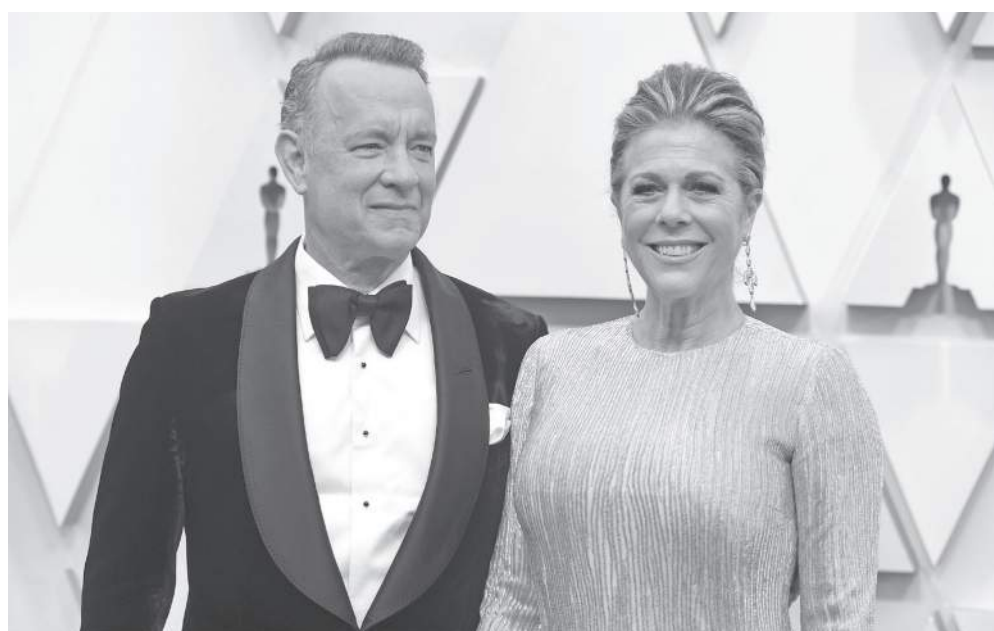
Hanks and Wilson, 63, were married in 1988. In 2013, Hanks disclosed that he has type 2 diabetes. He is easily the most famous person yet to publicly announce a positive test for the virus, which the World Health Organization on Wednesday declared a pandemic.

Hanks also posted his mes-

sage on social media with an image of a surgical glove in a garbage can. He signed off saying that he would "keep the world posted and updated." Said Hanks: "Take care of yourselves!"

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.



In this Feb. 9, 2020 file photo, Tom Hanks, left, and Rita Wilson arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein was sentenced Wednesday to 23 years in prison after breaking his courtroom silence with a rambling plea for mercy in which he professed to be "totally confused" by the #MeToo movement that spelled the Hollywood producer's downfall.

His accusers—those who testified against him and many others who have spoken out elsewhere against the former Hollywood mogul—hailed the near-maximum punishment for his rape and criminal sex act convictions as long overdue.

The 67-year-old Weinstein, who arrived at the courthouse Wednesday in a wheelchair and was taken to a hospital after complaining of chest pains hours after the court hearing, could spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Weinstein gets 23 years in sentence hailed by accusers

He was convicted last month of raping a once-aspiring actress in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performing oral sex on former TV and film production assistant Mimi Haley at his apartment in 2006. He faced a minimum of five years and a maximum of 29 years in prison.

The conviction marked the first criminal fallout from a raft of allegations that the Oscar-winning movie producer used his clout to lure women, sexually assault or harass them and then silence them.

"Although this is a first conviction, this is not a first offense," Judge James Burke said in imposing the sentence.

Weinstein, who did not testify during the trial, addressed his accusers, saying, "To all

the women who testified, we may have different truths, but I have great remorse for all of you." But he also argued that men are being accused of "things that none of us understood."

"Thousands of men are losing due process. I'm worried about this country," he said in a calm but creaking voice. "I'm totally confused. I think men are confused about these issues."

Both of the women Weinstein was convicted of assaulting told the court about the damage he did to them, and the empowerment they felt when testifying against him.

"Rape is not just one moment of penetration. It is for-



Weinstein

ever," said the 2013 rape accuser, who recalled a moment during the trial when she left the witness stand in tears and then could be heard screaming from an adjacent room.

It was, she said, "the day my voice came back to its full power," she said.

Asked later about her reaction after the sentence, she wiped her eyes, raised her arm and nodded her head.

Haley broke down in tears as she told the court the 2006 attack scarred her deeply and "stripped me of my dignity as a woman." The encounter made her rethink her career in the entertainment business and left her feeling afraid of retaliation, she said.

ation, she said.

The Associated Press typically does not name people, without their consent, who say they were sexually assaulted. It is withholding the rape accuser's name because it is not clear whether she wishes to be identified.

Weinstein, who has maintained that any sexual activity was consensual, showed no reaction to the sentence.

In his address to the court, he touched on his past charitable fund-raising, his filmmaking career and a pledge that his new "mission is to help people." He said his "empathy has grown" since his downfall.

Weinstein reported chest pains later in the day at Rikers Island Jail Complex and was taken back to a locked

jail ward at Bellevue Hospital, a spokesperson of his said. He remained there, where he spent time after conviction, as of Wednesday night.

Years of whispers about Weinstein's alleged behavior burst into public view in The New York Times and The New Yorker in 2017. In the aftermath, more than 90 women, including Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek and other actresses, publicly accused Weinstein of sexual assault and sexual harassment. The takedown energized the #MeToo movement for speaking up about sexual assault.

Time's Up, an organization created in the wake of #MeToo, on Wednesday hailed the women who testified against him for "the impact that they have had on our culture at large."

Adoptive mom writes rules for strangers with questions

DEAR ABBY: I'm an adoptive mother who has had more than my fair share of inappropriate comments directed at me and my children. They usually come from strangers or acquaintances. I'm about up to here with them, so I thought I would write you about etiquette for interacting with adoptive families:

Though we may stand out to you, we think of ourselves as a family like any other. Please do NOT start a conversation with us that has the sole purpose of pointing out the obvious. Remember that my children have ears.

Please do not ask questions in front of them about them or their adoption. Don't ask in private unless you are a close friend. Better yet, let me broach the subject.

Please do not ALWAYS comment on my daughters' hair. Yes, it is nicely braided and decorated with beautiful beads. But isn't there something else you can say about them? Maybe just once? And please don't talk in front of them about how hard it must be for me to do their hair. I LOVE braiding it.

Please don't say I am a saint for adopting them. I chose to adopt because I never wanted to have biological children. And please don't say how nice it is for me to love them so much. Why would you expect that I wouldn't love my children?

Please do not pity my children. They have amazing lives, are fiercely loved and have bright futures ahead. And please do not introduce me to others as someone "who has adopted two

girls from Africa." Because my daughters are black does NOT mean they are from Africa! I would much prefer you simply say, "Anne has two 8-year-old daughters."

And last, please remember that you and I are both people who love our families, and we have more in common than you might think.

ANNE FROM CALIFORNIA

DEAR ANNE: Thank you for a great letter. Sometimes well-meaning people simply don't think about the impact their words can have when they begin a conversation. I hope my readers will take your words to heart because they are valid.

DEAR ABBY: While separating photographs after my divorce from my wife, I found some photographs of relatives' and friends' weddings. Is there any protocol on what to do with them? In some cases, the marriages (and friendships) have ended, so I assume I should just dispose of them, correct? I will send my ex-wife any photos of her and her family, but none that include my family. Is this the right way to go?

We don't live in the same area anymore, and our families were never close. I would be interested to hear what you think should be done with family photos that include me, my ex-wife and our children. Should they go just to the children? I am in a new committed relationship, and I do not wish to keep any

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

photos of my ex for any reason. Can you please help?
NEEDS TO KNOW IN NEW YORK

DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW: Send the family pictures to your children and instruct them to share them with your ex IF she would like to have them. If you still have a relationship with the friends and relatives, inform them that you found the photos and ask if they would like to have them. That would be the considerate thing to do.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

NBA suspends season over coronavirus



MIAMI (AP)—The NBA has suspended its season “until further notice” after a Utah Jazz player tested positive Wednesday for the coronavirus, a move that came only hours after the majority of the league’s owners were leaning toward playing games without fans in arenas.

Now there will be no games at all, at least for the time being. A person with knowledge of the situation said the Jazz player who tested positive was center Rudy Gobert. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the league nor the team confirmed the test.

“The NBA is suspending game play following the conclusion of tonight’s schedule of games until further notice,” the league said in a statement sent shortly after 9:30 p.m. EDT. “The NBA will use this hiatus to determine next steps for moving forward in regard to the coronavirus pandemic.”

The test result, the NBA said, was reported shortly before the scheduled tip-off time for the Utah at Oklahoma City game on Wednesday night was

called off. Players were on the floor for warmups and tip-off was moments away when they were told to return to their locker rooms. About 30 minutes later, fans were told the game was postponed “due to unforeseen circumstances.”

Those circumstances were the league’s worst-case scenario for now—a player testing positive. A second person who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity said the league expects the shutdown to last a minimum of two weeks, but cautioned that timeframe is very fluid.

“It’s a very serious time right now,” Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “I think the league moved appropriately and prudently and we’ll all just have to monitor the situation and see where it goes from here.”

The Jazz released a statement saying a player—they did not identify Gobert—tested negative earlier Wednesday for flu, strep throat and an upper respiratory infection. That player’s symptoms diminished as the day went along, but the decision was made to test for COVID-19 anyway. That test came back with a preliminary positive result.



AP
Philadelphia 76ers' Mike Scott (1) dunks the ball against Detroit Pistons' Khyri Thomas (13) during the first half of an NBA game, Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Philadelphia.

ish to a game between two of the worst teams in the East.

“I couldn’t care less about the game,” Young said. “The safety of everyone is the most important thing.”

Mavericks 113, Nuggets 97

In Dallas, Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle, like his players, heard about the NBA’s decision to suspend the season while in the third quarter of their game against the Denver Nuggets.

That ended up being the last game completed in the league Wednesday night, and the Mavericks avoided their first three-game losing streak before the NBA season’s suspension “until further notice” after a Utah Jazz player tested positive for the coronavirus.

Boban Marjanovic had 31 points and 17 rebounds, Luka Doncic scored 28 points and the Mavericks won.

Jamal Murray had 25 points to lead Denver, and Will Barton had 23.

Tim Hardaway Jr. had 17 points and Maxi Kleber 15 for the Mavericks, the only team in the league without a three-game losing streak.

Hornets 109, Heat 98

Charlotte coach James Borrego thought it would be a rallying cry of sorts for the Hornets to not let the Miami Heat clinch a playoff spot on their watch.

He was apparently right.

And by night’s end, that hardly seemed to matter.

Devonte’ Graham scored 30 points, Caleb Martin scored 19 and the Hornets shook off an early 20-point deficit to beat the Heat, keeping Miami’s magic number for clinching a postseason berth at one.

P.J. Washington scored 17 and Miles Bridges scored 16 for the Hornets.

76ers 124, Pistons 106

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid swished a 3 from the top of the arc and stretched his arms toward a wildly cheering crowd.

Embiid had 30 points and 14 rebounds in his return from a sprained left shoulder, leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a victory over the Detroit Pistons.

The players then hit the locker room when news of the suspended season broke and they were not made available to the media.

MLB prefers teams flip sites if virus shuts parks

NEW YORK (AP)—If Major League Baseball can’t play in front of fans at a team’s home ballpark because of the virus outbreak, the sport’s first preference likely would be to switch games to the visiting team’s stadium if possible, a person familiar with the deliberations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because no decisions have been made.

MLB starts its season on March 26. Among the games on opening day is Texas at Seattle—the Seattle area has been hit hard by the virus, with 24 deaths.

MLB anticipates government officials will decide whether it is safe to play in front of fans in each city. If changes to the schedule are necessary, MLB would make determinations at the point when a ballpark has been ruled out.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee plans to ban gatherings and events of more than 250 people in virtually the entire Seattle area, a person familiar with the decision told the AP on Tuesday night. The person was not authorized to disclose the decision and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Inslee scheduled a news

conference for late Wednesday morning. The Mariners and MLB had no immediate comment.

“I hope it doesn’t turn into us missing games or pushing scheduled games back,” Baltimore Orioles first baseman Chris Davis said.

In Seattle, the Mariners will move home games out of Seattle through end of March following the state of Washington’s decision to ban large group events in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Seattle had been scheduled to open the season at T-Mobile Park with a four-game series against Texas from March 26-29, then host Minnesota in a three-game series from March 30 through April 1.

The Mariners said Wednesday they are working with the commissioner’s office on alternative plans.

“While we hope to be back to playing baseball in Seattle as soon as possible, the health and safety of our community is the most important consideration,” the team said in a statement.

Seattle is scheduled to play a four-game series at Minnesota from April 20-23 and at Texas from April 24-26.

“The individual is currently in the care of health officials in Oklahoma City,” the Jazz said, adding that updates would come as appropriate.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, which declared a pandemic on Wednesday, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

It has been a worldwide issue for several weeks. And now, it has hit the NBA.

“This is crazy,” Cleveland forward Tristan Thompson said on Twitter.

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said he was stunned when the news came down, adding that “this is much bigger than basketball.”

“This is a global pandemic where people’s lives at stake,” Cuban said. “I’m a lot more worried about my kids, and my mom is 82 years old, and talking to her, and telling her to stay in the house, than I am about when we play our next game.”

Charlotte Hornets coach James Borrego, speaking before his team’s game at Miami, said “these are scary times.”

Rapidly evolving times, as well. Around 7 p.m., a person with knowledge of the situation told AP that owners—who met by teleconference Wednesday—were largely in support of a plan to play games in empty arenas on a short-term basis.

About an hour later, the Thunder-Jazz game was halted before tip-off. And about 90 minutes after that, the season was called off, effective when the last whistle was to blow Wednesday night.

Knicks 136, Hawks 131 OT

In Atlanta, Vince Carter knew the end was coming.

Yet it still strange to consider, that he might not get the final month of his long, brilliant career.

Carter came off the bench for the Atlanta Hawks in the closing seconds to sink an uncontested 3-pointer that finished off a loss to the New York Knicks.

For a 43-year-old player in the final season of a record 22-year career, the significance of the moment was both “weird” and a bit overwhelming.

Carter dabbed at his eyes, struggling to contain his emotions.

“If it ended today, this is something I’ll always remember,” he said. “At least I made my last basket.”

Julius Randle scored 33 points, RJ Barrett added 26 and the Knicks held on in overtime after Trae Young led a furious comeback in the fourth quarter.

Afterward, though, no one was talking about the wild fin-

Tokyo shoots down comments about delaying games

TOKYO (AP)—The president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee said Wednesday he has received an apology from an executive board member who said the 2020 Games should be delayed a year to two because of the coronavirus.

Yoshiro Mori called a quick news conference at committee headquarters to shoot down the comments.

"There is no plan now to change our plans," Mori said, speaking in Japanese.

He was referring to comments from Haruyuki Takahashi reported in the Wall Street Journal.

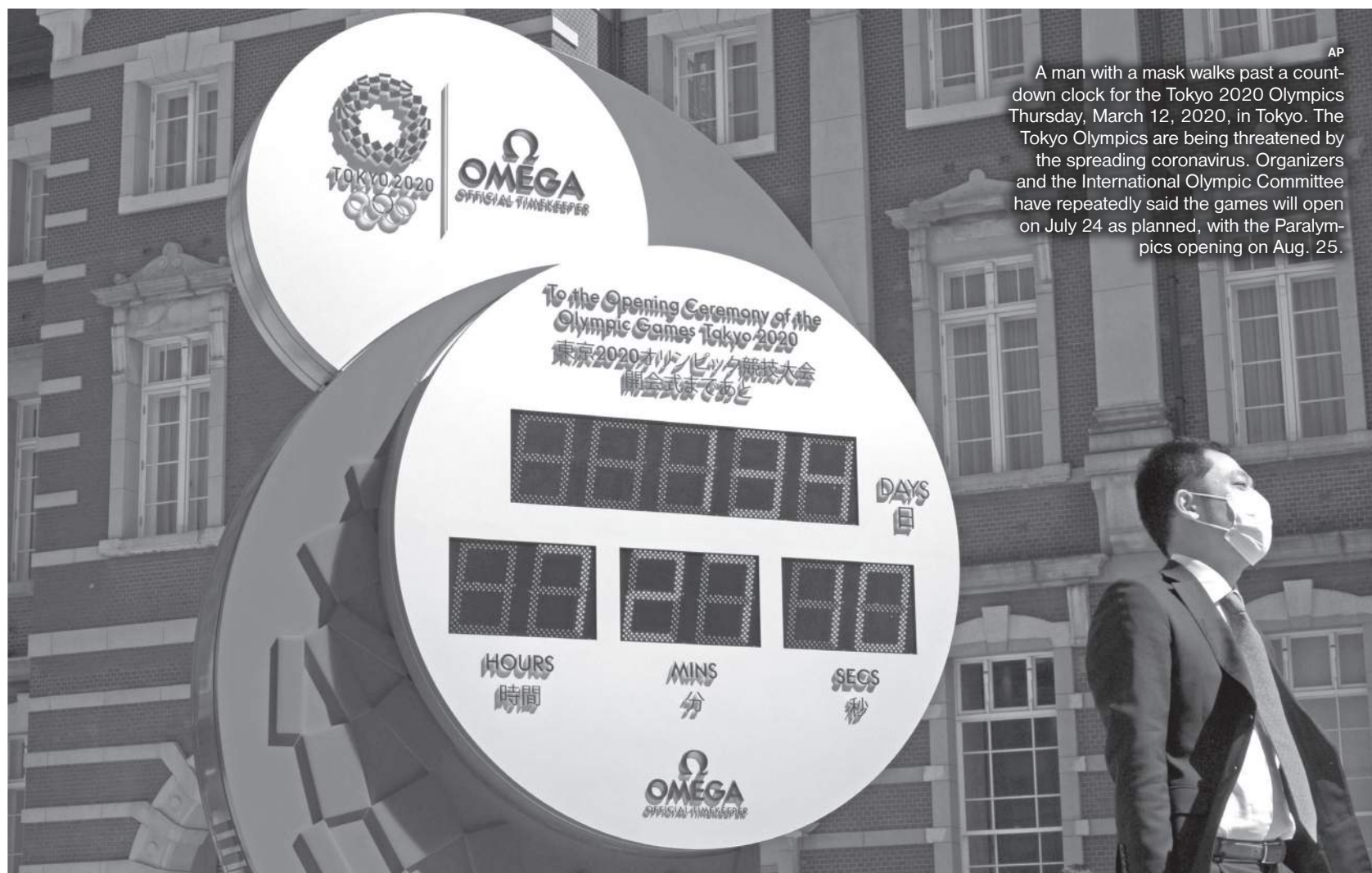
"I have spoken to Mr. Takahashi and he has apologized," Mori said. "He certainly said an outlandish thing."

Mori said Takahashi was speaking for himself. Takahashi is not involved in the day-to-day running of the organizing committee, which is directed by Mori and CEO Toshio Muto.

The Tokyo Olympics are being threatened by the spreading coronavirus. Organizers and the International Olympic Committee have repeatedly said the games will open on July 24 as planned, with the Paralympics opening on Aug. 25.

Any option other than opening on schedule—if the virus allows that—is fraught with problems.

The IOC's contract with Tokyo gives it almost total



AP
A man with a mask walks past a countdown clock for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Thursday, March 12, 2020, in Tokyo. The Tokyo Olympics are being threatened by the spreading coronavirus. Organizers and the International Olympic Committee have repeatedly said the games will open on July 24 as planned, with the Paralympics opening on Aug. 25.

control over cancellation without a penalty for breaking contract terms. It has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion to tide it over until the next Olympics, and also carries cancellation insurance.

Delaying a year or two, as Takahashi suggested, would see the Olympics clash with events already set on the

crowded world sports calendar. That would include the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, and soccer's World Cup in Qatar the same year.

It also raises questions about more than 3,000 apartments being built for the Athletes Village. Those units are to be sold

off by realtors after the 2020 Olympics and should go for high-end prices.

The village is to house 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 Paralympic athletes and would not likely be available.

Any delay would also affect broadcasters like U.S. network NBC, which is paying

more than \$1 billion for the rights to the Tokyo Olympics. The same is true for sponsors. Broadcasting rights and sponsorship account for 91% of the IOC income.

Senior IOC member Dick Pound said last month in an interview with The Associated Press that the Olympic body had until about the end of May

to decide on going ahead—or something else. He said a cancellation might be the most likely option.

Pound, a former IOC vice president and the founding president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, said he was speaking for himself. He has been an IOC member since 1978.

The NCAA basketball tournaments are on—for now—though the buzzer-beaters, upsets and all the other shining moments will take place in mostly empty arenas.

Trying to avoid spreading the new coronavirus that has become a global pandemic, the NCAA on Wednesday decided the men's and women's Division I tournament games will be off-limits to the general public. The major college conferences followed the NCAA's lead, one by one announcing their league tournaments would go on the rest of the week with restricted fan access.

"I think the right answer is we considered every option available to us," NCAA President Mark Emmert told The Associated Press. "The notion of cancellation, however, is one that is pretty draconian because we're dealing with student-athletes for whom participating in a national championship is a life long dream."

"We debated every option available to us, but that's the one nobody wanted to pursue."

A few hours later, the NBA suspended its season after Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19, and re-opened questions about

NCAA on for now, but without fans

whether the NCAA had gone far enough.

The NCAA did not immediately return a request for comment following the NBA's announcement.

The NCAA's plan is to conduct both tournaments, which begin next week, with only essential staff and limited family in attendance.

"The decision was based on a combination of the information provided by national and state officials, by the advisory team that we put together of medical experts from across the country, and looking at what was going to be in the best interest of our student-athletes, of course," Emmert told the AP in a phone interview. "But also the public health implications of all of this. We recognize our tournaments bring people from all around the country together. They're not just regional events. They're big national events. It's a very, very hard decision for all the obvious reasons."

Emmert said the NCAA wants to move the men's Final Four on April 4 and 6 from Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz

Stadium to a smaller arena in the area. The NCAA also will consider using smaller venues for second-week regional sites currently set to be played at the Toyota Center in Houston, Madison Square Garden in New York, Staples Center in Los Angeles and Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

"We have to determine the availability of the sites, obviously, but it doesn't make good sense to have a football stadium be empty," Emmert said.

All sites for next week's men's games will remain the same unless conditions in those areas force relocation, he said. Or worse.

The NCAA said tickets already purchased will be refunded.

First- and second-round sites for the women's tournament will become official next week. Those games are usually played at or near the campuses of the highly seeded teams.

"It's really sad. Obviously it's disappointing for all our fans," said Louisville women's coach Jeff Walz, whose

team is ranked No. 6 in the latest AP poll. "At the same time I completely understand for the health and safety of the fans and student-athletes and everyone involved."

The decision applies to more than just men's and women's basketball. All NCAA-sponsored championships including hockey's Frozen Four will be affected.

But the men's basketball tournament is the crown jewel, one of the most popular events on the American sports calendar. March Madness draws hundreds of thousands of fans to arenas from coast to coast. The men's tournament generated more than \$900 million in revenue last year for the NCAA and its member schools, though the majority of that was from a media rights deal with CBS and Turner that pays about \$800 million per year.

"We're like any enterprise of this size, we have business interruption insurance, and a variety of other things but we'll sort that out in due course," Emmert said.

Emmert said CBS and Turner plan to broadcast the games as usual. Other media members will be allowed into the arenas to cover the games, but how many is still being determined, he said.

Emmert said a protocol for the medical screening of people entering the arenas is still being worked out, too, along with what constitutes essential staff (bands? cheerleaders?) and how to define family members.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover from the virus.

Around the country, many colleges and universities in recent days have been shifting to virtual classes and telling students to extend their spring breaks, encouraging them to stay away from campus.

"A number of schools, including schools that their president are on our board, have indeed closed down campuses

and made other accommodations and so it was part of the discussions," Emmert said. "And people recognizing they were making those decisions for good reasons, and doesn't that logic continue over to athletic competitions?"

The 68-team field for the men's basketball tournament is scheduled to be announced Sunday and the 64-team women's tournament field is to be unveiled Monday. Games begin Tuesday and Wednesday on the men's side in Dayton, Ohio, where earlier in the day the governor said he would issue an order to restrict spectator access to indoor sporting events.

Wednesday's conference tournament games in places such as Kansas City, Missouri; Nashville, Tennessee; and Las Vegas will be the last of this season college basketball season played in front of large crowds. Many fans were not happy about that.

"We were going to be here for the whole tournament. Now it's trying to find a flight home, go back to hotel and cancel, see if they let us cancel the rest of it," said Maryland fan Tim White, 44, from Baltimore, who made the trip to Indianapolis for the Big Ten Tournament.



Shirley's, Fiesta win opening games

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

drew first blood in the 2020 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League that kicked off last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

TRAC supports Saipan Marathon, Tagaman

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI fully supports the staging of the Saipan Marathon this Saturday and Tagaman Triathlon the following weekend.

TRAC believes the safety measures implemented by both the federal and local government are enough to move forward with these two big events.

"Tagaman is the USA Triathlon-sanctioned event. On the part of the local organizing committee, TRAC has plans in place in accordance with USA Triathlon guidelines. We will have a brief press conference on March 19 and only members of the media will be invited to join some of the participants," TRAC said in a statement.

TRAC has also rearranged the schedule of race briefing and race kits pickup on March 20 from 2pm to 6pm at Kanoa Resort. Instead of the usual random pickup of kits, the schedule will be according to groups; 2pm-3:30pm (for Korean speaking participants), 3pm-4:30pm (for Japanese), and 4:30pm-6pm (for English).

"Aside from advising everyone to observe strict per-

sonal hygiene and less physical contact, participants, as well as all the other related personnel in the event will be provided with hand sanitizers, alcohol, and antiseptic wipes during pre and post-race activities," TRAC said.

Tagaman Triathlon is the longest-running race in the Western Pacific with its inaugural edition held on March 12, 1988. The event is still open for registration and deadline to sign up is on March 18.

The Tagaman Triathlon's major sponsors are Kanoa Resort as the official hotel, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Skymark Airlines, DFS T Galleria, IT&E, Triple J Enterprises, Hyatt Regency, Brabu Pharmacy, and MAR-PAC. Other sponsors are Bridge Capital LLC, Saipan Ice & Water, Marianas Variety, Fiesta Resort & Spa, KFC Triathlon, Neo Timing System, Marianas Health, NMI Cycling Federation, Hawaiian Rock Products, J's Restaurant, RVN Construction, and volunteers from Grace Christian Academy.

Contact swimbikerun.saipan@gmail.com or visit triathloncnmi.org for further details and inquiries. (PR)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's downed D&Q in the curtain-raiser, 54-47, while Fiesta Resort defeated Saipan Tribune in the second match, 61-50.

John Jugos stepped up in Shirley's opener after scoring 26 points, while Junar Guiab also finished in twin digits adding 16.

Jugos delivered 11 of Shirley's first 13 points in the second half to help the team battle

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Junar Guiab is surrounded by D&Q defenders during the second half of their game in the 2020 TanHoldings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

back from a 21-23 deficit in the first half. Guiab also scored majority of his points in the second half, making 10, including three free throws that secured the

victory for Shirley's.

In the other match in the opening week, Fiesta Resort led from start to finish en route to the 11-point win-

ning margin.

Team captain Elmer Esdrelon paced Fiesta with his 13 points, while new recruit Marlon De Dios contributed 12. Arjay Nonato, Fradel Sedillo, and Ronnie Labadan combined for 23 markers for Fiesta Resort's balance scoring.

Sedillo registered all his 8 points in the first half, handing Fiesta Resort an early double-digit spread, 23-12. Five other Fiesta Resort players hit the board in the first half.

Esdrelon, who was held to a free throw in the first half, redeemed himself in the second, knocking in two triples and three more field goals to give Fiesta Resort a good start.

Young guns Merrick Toves and Matthew Ong had 14 points each on a losing effort for Saipan Tribune.

First Game

Shirley 54—Jugos 26, Guiab 16, Abella 4, Catungal 4, Alonzo 2, Salilin 2.

D&Q 47—Riungel 11, Fujihira 10, Manglona 9, Muna 6, Camu 4, Benavente 3, King 3.

Scoring by halves: 21-23, 54-47.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 61—Esdrelon 13, De Dios 12, Nonato 9, Sedillo 8, Labadan 6, Quizon 4, Obmerga 3, Demafelix 2, Gracia 2, Suba 2.

Saipan Tribune 50—Toves 14, Ong 14, Pagarao 10, Ocanada 4, Dela Torre 4, Villaluna 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-12, 61-50.

KANOA

From Page 24

after topping TanHoldings, 4-2.

Richard Castro delivered a pair for MP United, while Dev Bachani and Jerick Quimzon contributed one each. Mark Costales and Jerald Aquino logged the two goals for TanHoldings.

GIRLS U17 DIVISION TanHoldings 4, Southern United 1

TanHoldings notched win No. 3 after outclassing Southern United.

Jannah Casarino fired twin goals for the division-leading TanHoldings, while Raenna Ramarui and Tyna Hix made one goal apiece.

Southern United's lone goal came from Nathannette Blas.

Kanoa 7, MP United 1

Kanoa finally made it to the win column after dropping its first three games following its triumph over MP United.

Paulynn Joyce anchored the victory after firing four goals, while Sharmaine Francisco chipped in three.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Southern United Football Club's Keisha Deleon Guerrero, fourth left, faces a phalanx of TanHoldings Football Club defenders during the first half of their girls U17 division game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United avoided a shut-out loss after drawing a goal from Mauryzon Tybaco

2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League

TEAM STANDINGS (As of March 11, 2020)

BOYS U16 DIVISION

CLUBS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	4	0	0	23	5	18	12
TanHoldings	2	0	2	12	14	-2	6
MP United	1	1	2	7	11	-4	4
Matansa	0	1	3	6	18	-12	1

GIRLS U17 DIVISION

CLUBS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	3	0	0	14	4	10	9
Southern United	2	0	2	9	11	-2	6
Kanoa	1	0	3	14	17	-3	3
MP United	1	0	2	8	13	-5	3

MIXED

From Page 24

for Tagaman next week, but circumstances could change by then," Chambers said.

Brad Ruszala, another regular Saipan Marathon participant, said "I would have been fine with a postponement of our race, but at least we'll get the chance to run it."

"I've been looking forward to our race and the Guam race for months. Guam's was postponed until September and our race this weekend might be the last time we're able to participate in an event like this for a while," he added.

Rommel Buenaflor, also a regular in the Saipan Marathon, said he has decided not to race this year because "I am not comfortable with it. There's always a next time."

Besides the runners, this weekend's Saipan Marathon will also be attended by volunteers, including health care professionals.

A Commonwealth Health Care Corp. staff, who requested to have his name withheld, believed that since the Saipan

Marathon has participants coming from countries with known positive cases, the event should rightfully be cancelled or at least postponed. He also lauded Japanese and South Koreans who have canceled their participation for "exercising better judgment". Laarni Santos, a Chinatown resident, acknowledged that the Saipan Marathon consistently brings tourists to the CNMI and contributes a lot to the economy. However, at this time, she said the priority should be the health and safety of the community, especially for a small island with limited resources like Saipan.

"Bigger countries have the resources (especially medical) to deal with this pandemic. How about us?," she said.

A consultant for big-crowd events, on the other hand, said Saipan Marathon is a good tool to promote the islands as a safe destination.

"Cancellation may create unwanted negative perception or stir panic. Use the marathon to assuage the public that this is a safe destination for everyone," he said.



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suspends
season over
coronavirus**

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**Tokyo
shoots down
comments
about delaying
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mixed views on Saipan Marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic and major sports competitions around the globe were either postponed or canceled, discussions on whether the 2020 Saipan Marathon should go ahead or not continue.

Nhorleen Lilles, who registered for tomorrow's event, is seriously considering pulling out from the competition, saying that although she is excited to de-



but in Saipan Marathon, she thinks it's not worth the risk.

Tomorrow's Saipan Marathon has over 700 registered participants with more than 200 of them coming from Ja-



MVA
A volunteer hands over a sponge to a runner passing through Beach Road during last year's Saipan Marathon.

pan and South Korea, which have confirmed COVID-19 cases. The CNMI remains free from the virus and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres attributed this to the strict safety measures that the islands are implementing.

These procedures convinced Torres and the Marianas Visitors Authority to go ahead with Saipan Marathon despite the request from the House of Representatives to postpone it. Derek Chambers, who com-

peted in the Saipan Marathon in the past, also thinks at this time it is OK to move forward with the race.

"I think that given our current situation on Saipan (no documented cases yet) that

it is OK to proceed with the marathon. I think that the risk of transmission during this particular event is pretty low so it should go ahead. Same

See MIXED on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Paulyn Joyce, right, tries to maneuver her way past an MP United Football Club defender during the second half of their girls U17 division game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa, TanHoldings keep clean slates

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and TanHoldings Football Club are still unbeaten in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Kanoa bagged its fourth victory in as many games in the boys U16 division after dominating Matansa Football Club, 9-0, last Saturday

at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Jaydee Jose and Markus Toves teamed up in towing Kanoa to the lopsided win after scoring three goals apiece. Brian Lubao added two, while Ruben Guerrero made one.

In the other match in the division, MP United gained its first victory of the season

See KANOA on Page 23



Rugby tournament in the works

The Northern Marianas Rugby Union is planning to start a competition in a few weeks and hosted a clinic last Sunday at the CPA Field to prepare for the tournament.

The group brought in Rob Leon Guerrero and the World Rugby certified rugby 7s referee conducted a clinic for

players of four squads—Uri-tao Rugby, Future Marines, MODE Fitness Gorilla, and Alesch Rugby Team.

The clinic, according to NMRU vice president and team director Ed Arriola, Jr. focused on the rules of the game, breakdown, ball presentation, fundamental catch-

ing and passing skills, and understanding when to attack offensively and defensively.

"We wanted our players to learn the core values of rugby both on and off the field, develop technical skills of the game, and build confidence in playing rugby. Rob brings a wealth

of Rugby 7s experience and our players needed that," Arriola added.

The NMRU also said that 90% of the players from the four teams are newcomers so the clinic was very significant as they prepare for their debut in the sport. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

World Rugby certified rugby 7s referee Rob Leon Guerrero, standing left, poses with Northern Marianas Rugby Union players and officials after conducting a clinic last Sunday at the Commonwealth Ports Airport Field.